

SPECIAL BUSINESS EDITION

SOUTHEASTERN

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS MAGAZINE

WINTER 2017



Michelle Trindade
**SERVANT LEADERSHIP
IN CORPORATE AMERICA**

ALSO FEATURING
Andrew Ahlschwede
Kirstin Czernek
Jeremy Dunn
Michael Hanlin
Ruthie Tait

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SOUTHEASTERN

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**General Council 2017
SEU ALUMNI RECEPTION**

Anaheim, CA

All alumni are welcome to attend the free event.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9TH
9 pm - 11:30 pm

Marriott Hotel
Marquis Ballroom Northeast
700 Convention Way
Anaheim, CA 92802

All alumni will receive gifts for attending, and we will have a drawing for an opportunity to win:
iPad Pro
Apple Watch
Bose Noise Cancelling Headphones

*(Must be present to win.
Drawing will be held at 10:30 pm)*



F U E L T H E F I R E

O2 PROGRAM HELP FUEL THE FIRE

Use this card to take advantage of numerous benefits, including an online discount program, discounts at Portico Coffeehouse, the bookstore and Fire Football games, including use of the library, weight room, and pool.

Your annual gift of \$25 will help provide scholarship dollars for our students.

For more information, visit: alumni.seu.edu/O2benefits





KENT J. INGLE, D.MIN.

I trust you will enjoy the Winter 2017 issue of the Southeastern alumni magazine. As an alum, you are part of the ongoing story of this Christ-centered institution. I truly count it a privilege to be able to share some highlights from this past year, as well as look ahead to the future for what God has for our community. God has truly been at work in significant ways as we continue to fulfill our mission to equip students to discover and develop their divine design.


At the beginning of every new academic year, I share one word with our faculty, staff and students that I believe God has given to me as a focus for that year. This year, the word was “Elevate.” I challenged our university community to elevate their personal discipline in order to bring their best self to the community; elevate their vision to see beyond where they are now; and to elevate their personal and organization systems to not only sustain their growth, but propel them into new seasons of innovation. This year, I have seen our community flourish with the word of the year in mind, breaking through to new levels of living and learning.

We have many things to celebrate just in this past semester. Early in the fall, we held the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the brand-new Buena Vida building, our 140,000-square foot live/learn building. This beautiful state-of-the-art facility enables us to provide students with exceptional living facilities as well as additional top-tier academic space. In a historic moment, early in the spring semester, we unveiled the College of Arts & Media Gallery, located within Buena Vida. In sports, Fire Football repeated as Sun Conference champs with a record of 5-0 in conference play and qualified for the NAIA National Championship series for the first time in program history.

In addition to SEU’s athletic accomplishments, this fall semester saw tremendous academic accolades as well. SEU had the first four graduates in kinesiology, as well as the first doctoral conferral at our fall commencement. In addition to our growth academically, SEU continues to hold a vibrant spiritual life on campus. The fall semester saw over 800 freshmen in more than 140 First Year Experience mentoring groups. These groups provide the opportunity for upper classmen to mentor freshmen through their transition and help them develop spiritual disciplines, such as Bible reading and prayer.

Yet, the mission of Southeastern, at its core, cannot be summed up simply with tremendous statistics. Behind every number is a story and a name. At the heart of what we do is serve our students as a Christ-centered, student-focused institution. This commitment extends beyond the classroom, chapel services and athletic events to when they become one of our esteemed alumni. As an institution, I hope you know we take pride in you, as you make an impact in the world. My sincere prayer is that you would operate in your divine design, and look back on your time at Southeastern as a season of equipping, development, and the cultivation of lifelong relationships.

In this issue, you will read stories of students, faculty and alumni that have brought their best selves forward, living in discipline, to accomplish all God has called them to in the field of business. My prayer is that you, too, would “Elevate” your personal discipline, passion and vision to bring your best self to your community.

May God continue to bless you and open doors as you continue to lead exactly where he has you. 

SEU President Publishes Third Book

Southeastern University's president, Dr. Kent Ingle, recently released his third book, *Framework Leadership: Position Yourself for Transformational Change*. We recently had the opportunity to sit down with Ingle to discuss his new book.

Tell us a little bit about your new book.

I have always believed amazing things don't happen just because of a great idea. They happen because someone takes that great idea and inspires others with it. *Framework Leadership* creates a framework of suggestions that provide clarity, direction, and purpose to transform your vision into reality. As you read this book and intentionally reflect on its content, I believe you will discover how to develop an awareness of your driving passion, the discipline to see divine opportunities, and the courage to act. You've been created for greatness - intended to do something significant, special, and meaningful. Throughout the pages of *Framework Leadership*, you'll find out how to share this vision with others and help them discover the greatness within themselves!

What was your vision behind writing this book?

My passionate drive in writing this book is to help you not only discover and develop your divine design, but also to sensitize you to the current context in which you are seeking to create meaningful change. I want to help you recognize the characteristics necessary for both personal and organizational transformation. I really believe the reasons some leaders can successfully communicate the vision in a way that motivates and inspires

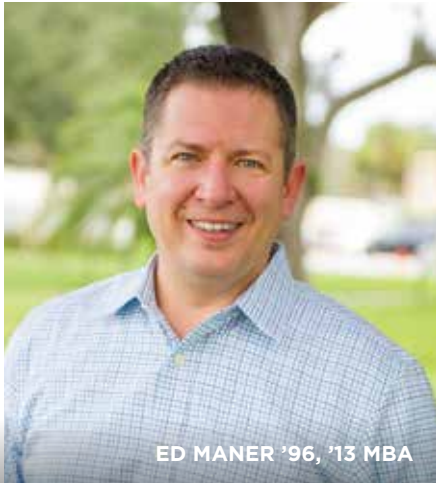
-and others can't-comes down to the ability to envision and foster a framework: a contextual system for bringing a vision into reality. I've discovered in my life, with the right kind of framework in place, people and organizations not only survive disappointment and failure, they transform them into fuel for ultimate success. The proper framework empowers people and groups to advance their missional call, even while overcoming difficulty or adapting to internal and external change. A framework makes all the difference in the world.

What are your frameworks for leadership?

One of the fundamental principles of framework leadership for me is to absolutely know the context in which I'm living and serving -you have to know where you are. You have to be self-aware. You need to know the people, the circumstances, the resources, the challenges, the limitations, the goals, the history, the competition. You have to know everything you can about the situation, and then you must have a clear vision for where you want to go in order to go from "you are here" to "you are where God wants you to be." My frameworks will constantly change based upon my personal and leadership context, but what will be foundational is discipline, opportunity, and contextualization. The foundation will build vision, create passion, and inspire action.

Framework Leadership is available for sale on Amazon. Ingle has published two books previously, including *This Adventure Called Life: Discovering Your Divine Design* and *9 Disciplines of Enduring Leadership*.





**“If I have seen
further than
others, it is by
standing upon
the shoulders
of giants.”**

—Sir Isaac Newton

RISE TO THE OCCASION

Sir Isaac Newton wrote the laws of motion in which we can now better understand relative motion in everything from the way a car moves, a plane flies, or the way a grain of sand is blown across the desert in a windstorm. While understanding how the laws of motion apply to physical properties, have we stopped to consider how these laws might be applied to an individual or organization?

In my role at the university, I have the privilege of meeting hundreds, if not thousands, of alumni each year. I could not achieve this without the use of modern modes of transportation. I have always been fascinated with the ingenuity of humans to create modern marvels such as barges built of steel, loaded with cargo, that can still stay afloat or how a plane loaded with passengers and their luggage can build enough momentum to lift off of a runway.

It all comes down to a simplified version of the laws of motion:

- An object that is not moving cannot start moving by itself
- The harder something is pushed, the further and faster it will go
- When pushed, there is always equal resistance coming from the opposite direction


I am thankful that we have leadership at our university that refuses to allow our great school to come to a standstill; rather, they back us with support and push us to become better than we are. The leadership team at Southeastern values and appreciates the alumni association

and backs what we are doing. Recently, we have revamped and relaunched our alumni web portal, which can be viewed at SEU.edu/alumni. This is a place for alumni to connect, engage, search for other alumni, and find information about events, etc. Our hope is that you can connect at a meaningful and higher level with the university and with the entire network of alumni.

Our alumni are giants. They are giants in their careers, giants in their cultures, and giants in the faith. It takes each of us, as giants in our own right, to become the shoulders on which the next generation of giants can stand. Through pressures in life and the resistance we have each faced, there comes a development of perseverance, fortitude, and the strength to become the launching pad so that others can see further than we could, accomplish more than we did, and lead better than we can.

The pressures against this next generation are like nothing we have seen in modern times. But remember, if we help to launch them into motion, then we are the catalyst for an even greater generation as they rise to their challenge.

Will you *rise to the occasion* to help support our students through prayer and financial support of student scholarships? They are counting on each of us.

If you are already contributing, thank you. If not, please consider sending in a gift today to help in training tomorrow's leaders. 

LETTER FROM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



Fellow alumni and friends:


On behalf of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors, I send you blessings on a prosperous year! Having celebrated my 50th birthday in 2016 and coupled with the resolve of a new year, I am reminded of the words from my father. He said, "Frank, the younger a person is, the more they look forward in life, but the older a person gets the more they look backwards. There comes a time when you both look forward and backwards, analyzing the things that you intended to do, but did not. Yet you look with expectation on the things that are left before you. As you age, legacy becomes more and more important. You wonder what meaningful mark you have left on generations to come. You wonder, did your life ever matter at all?" He said, "If our greatest accomplishment when we stand before the Father is that we made it in, then our life was meaningless."

Malcolm Gladwell, in his book *Outliers*, clearly demonstrated that none of us can fully take credit for our successes in life and that in fact each of us stands on the shoulders of those who have helped pave the way for us. I heard a concept years ago that I adopted as a life strategy and that is the idea that every person needs a Paul, a Timothy and a Barnabas in their life. Paul mentors us; Barnabas is a contemporary, providing many "iron sharpening moments"; and we mentor Timothy. Over the years, I have tried to keep all three relationships active and intact. This idea of transference reaffirms the words of Jesus in Matthew 10:8 as he says, "*Freely received, freely given.*" Each of us has a responsibility to "*pay it forward*" in life and to become conduits through which God can channel his blessings: Give and it shall be given to you; what you sow you reap; blessed to be a blessing.

So, as I reflect, looking both forward and backward, I can't help but recommit to the idea of "mentorship" and "legacy." I am committed to leaving a mark which can never be erased through investing in the lives of the next generation of leaders. When a farmer looks to plant seed, he knows that the soil is just as important as the seed. Southeastern is great soil! With a total enrollment approaching 6,000 students, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that the grounds are blessed.

This year our firm increased its annual giving to the university by 40 percent, and we have committed to partnering with the university by providing jobs, internship opportunities and scholarships to students. We also received \$100,000 in commitments from subcontractors who had the privilege of working on campus. As many of you know, we've all experienced the anxiety at graduation as we look over the horizon to the unknown future. If each of our alumni businesses and churches partner with the university in ensuring 100 percent job placement for our graduates, student enrollment will grow even greater than its current rate. In this new year, please join me in leaving a mark at SEU by giving time, money, wisdom and knowledge to our students.

Don't forget to join the O2 program by visiting the alumni page of our website and commit to stay connected as we do our part in "*paying it forward*" for the kingdom of God.

I pray God's best blessings on you, your family, your business and ministry as God does exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think! Go Fire! 

ON CAMPUS





CATALYST UNIVERSITY

In the fall semester, Southeastern launched a partnership with Catalyst Conferences to create Catalyst University. The new partnership offers Catalyst Conference attendees the opportunity to take accredited college courses at a discounted rate in order to become a Certified Catalyst Leader or continue on to receive a certificate in Organizational Leadership.

“We think that the learning modules that we have crafted with the Catalyst team are going to give Catalyst leaders the resources and the credibility to lead well in their context. We have designed three modules that focus on self-leadership, collaboration and innovation. I believe these three areas are key and crucial to leaders in the 21st century,” said Dr. Kent Ingle, president.

Catalyst and Southeastern saw the desire for attendees to continue learning and growing beyond the one or two day conferences, and partnered together to create a program flexible enough to fit current and aspiring leaders’ schedules. The vision of Catalyst University is to help leaders expand their potential by becoming Catalyst Certified or earning a complete certificate in Organizational Leadership. This provides Catalyst attendees with a way to continue learning and growing their leadership beyond the walls of the conference, as well as the opportunity to continue equipping the next generation of leaders so that they can go into the world as influential servants in their careers and their communities.

Alumni can become Certified Catalyst Leaders by completing the first class or continue on to become certified in Organizational Leadership after finishing all nine credits. For information about discounts, contact the Alumni office at alumni@seu.edu or call 863.667.5400.



BOOKS ON FIRE BLOG

The library has recently launched a new blog, Books on Fire, catered to alumni, students and faculty. The new blog aims to inform alumni, as well as the campus community, about library events, special projects, research the librarian faculty members are working on, librarian bios/spotlights, and highlighting student worker accomplishments. You can check out the blog at library.seu.edu/blog. Articles will be published at least once a week.

REORGANIZATION OF DEPARTMENTS

The Jannetides College of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership, previously known as the College of Business and Legal Studies, was recently reorganized. Two departments in the college were recently moved to different colleges. The history department was moved under the College of Arts & Media, and merged with the English and foreign language department to form the department of humanities. The department of criminal justice transitioned into the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences.

Since its inception, the criminal justice program has experienced tremendous growth. The fall semester saw over 125 criminal justice majors. This number has steadily been rising since the launch of the program in 2005. “When the College of Business and Legal Studies reorganized, re-named, and re-focused, criminal justice was no longer a logical fit. Most universities offer criminal justice in the social sciences. This seemed a logical time to put the department in a more traditional location,” said Dr. Linda Bowlin, chair of the department of criminal justice. The department welcomed a new professor and also added new courses to increase the elective offerings.



BUENA VIDA - "THE GOOD LIFE"

Imagine being able to have your dorm room, classes and dining options all in one building. In the new Buena Vida buildings, stretching five stories high, this opportunity was made possible for Southeastern students. The top two floors of the new buildings consist of dorm rooms, men's on the West side and the women's on the East side. Large social rooms with spiral staircases and large windows showcase Lake Bonny. The East building's third floor consists of large classrooms, some which hold up to 90 students, and the testing center for students. The second floor encompasses brand new offices for the Jannetides College of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership and the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences. The West building houses an auditorium for lectures and classrooms on the first floor.



Photo: Pierre DuCharme/The Ledger

Jonathan Simon, assistant professor of art, exhibiting some of his finest work at the CAM gallery.

Southeastern opened this building in time for students to move into their dorm rooms on September 3, 2016. In January 2017, the College of Arts & Media debuted its visual arts gallery on the first floor of the East building. In March of 2017, Southeastern will cut the ribbon for a food court, with large glass windows overlooking the lake. Restaurant options in the West building include Einstein Bros. Bagels, Papa John's Pizza, and Back Yard Burgers. Students are able to use their Fire Card money to eat at these restaurants. Although students and faculty members are enjoying the new facility, they have much to look forward to this upcoming spring. The facility is still under partial construction.



GROWTH ON CAMPUS

Southeastern hit yet another enrollment record with a total of over 5,800 students. The enrollment numbers include traditional, online and extension site students. Southeastern's enrollment in the previous academic year (2015-16) was 4,538 students. In the last 10 years, enrollment has increased by 95 percent.

Southeastern also introduced new programs for the 2016-17 academic year, including bachelor degrees in digital media & design and business analysis; a master's degree in international community development; and a second doctoral degree, the Doctor of Ministry.



SEU HOSTS SPECIAL OLYMPICS

For Southeastern students, hosting an event on campus is another opportunity for them to volunteer in serving the local community of Lakeland, Fla. This past fall, Southeastern had the opportunity to host the local Special Olympics at Victory Field, the football stadium. The Olympic events took place in the morning and early afternoon, and then were followed by an award ceremony during the half-time show at Southeastern's football game.

"Having the event at Southeastern brings it to another level in Polk County. This is very similar to our state level competition. We look forward to future opportunities of hosting the games at Southeastern," said Glenn Fite, Jr., area sports director of Hillsborough and Polk Counties Special Olympics.

Over 120 students competed in powerlifting, softball, flag football, and cheerleading and gymnastics. Each

participant partnered with an athlete from Southeastern. The Southeastern students from the sport management classes served as volunteers. More than 50 students from Southeastern volunteered.

"I enjoyed dancing and cheering with the competitors. I also enjoyed seeing their enthusiasm for their sport and how the community came around them to make each moment worthwhile. I loved seeing the SEU teams partner with the Olympic athletes. I would most definitely volunteer again if the opportunity presented itself," said Amber Bruce. Amber, a sport management major with a concentration in youth ministry, volunteered as the opening ceremony coordinator for the Special Olympics.

"To host an event of this magnitude is such a blessing for the participating athletes, their families, and the Southeastern community as a whole. I have been amazed at the outpouring of support from our

SEU students who have signed up to be volunteers. It was truly a blessing that the entire Southeastern community helped to make it happen," said Dr. Kevin Weaver, assistant professor of education and human performance.

The opportunity to host the Special Olympics at Southeastern came about after some Southeastern students volunteered with the Special Olympics. In the spring of 2016, the Southeastern Kappa Delta Pi chapter and Terri Paton, director of Pathways School of Excellence, volunteered with the Special Olympics. Through the volunteer opportunity, they were able to establish a working relationship and offer for Southeastern to host the local Special Olympics group.

"The leadership team at Southeastern was excited to get the campus involved in this. We would love to make it an annual event," said Paton.



TEACHING ENGLISH TO OFFER HOPE

Entering a foreign country for the first time can often be daunting: the thrill of new experiences intermingled with the unknown. A group of Syrian refugees might experience these same feelings as they enter a new country with no prior knowledge of the language. In order to help alleviate the challenges of a language barrier, a group of four English and Intercultural Studies (EIS) students at Southeastern, along with Dr. Annette Graves, associate professor of English, have volunteered to spend their Saturdays teaching English to groups of Syrian refugees.

“I have been able to watch [the refugees] grow and fall in love with this country and feel safe, which is something they didn’t have in Syria. Something that one of my students said to me very early on impacted me, ‘I feel like this is already my country. All I need is to know the language and it truly will be my home,’” said Mack Fowler, a senior and EIS student.

The opportunity to teach English to Syrian refugees came through a request from Matt Rhine, Director of Operations for Caleb’s Mission’s, a non-profit organization in Dover, Fla., whose every effort is designed to meet needs locally and build bridges to a global community. Prior to this, EIS students, under the supervision of Graves, had been experimenting with curriculum development at Southeastern’s main campus in FIRE English classes, a community outreach to adult English learners in the Lakeland area.

“The invitation to design, develop, and deliver English classes for Caleb’s Mission offered a timely opportunity to field test the approach being developed in FIRE English classes,” said Graves. “However, the texts we had been using on campus were inadequate or inappropriate for delivering English language instruction to Muslims.”

With inadequate curriculum, Graves decided to create curriculum that would cater to the refugees, with the help of the EIS students. The students helped develop the curriculum through providing feedback and suggestions. The curriculum follows a storyline based on the true story of a young Brethren/Mennonite couple in the 1880s, who sell their lush farmland in Pennsylvania to move to western Kansas.

“The curriculum exceeded our expectations, not only with language gains being demonstrated among the refugees but with the ways in which it has provided language and opportunity for the refugees to share their fears and hopes about their futures in the United States,” said Graves.

Graves handpicked four students, Mack, Jessica, Kendall and Megan, to help teach the curriculum based on the following criteria: extensive teaching experience in FIRE English classes and overseas internships, extensive cross-cultural experience and recognized cross-cultural sensitivities, demonstrated character



and spiritual maturity within the SEU community, and a reputation for consistent and reliable performance in Southeastern's classrooms. The students committed to a six-week period to help teach the refugees in Tampa.

The first classroom they used was provided by 1 Body Global, a house church movement with a facility near the refugee homes. Each class was divided into two eighty-minute sessions with a short break in between. Twenty-two students from six refugee families attended their first class. Childcare was provided by Caleb's Mission. They held classes every Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m., from September 24 through October 29, 2016. They averaged about 15 to 20 students.

"It is incredible to think about the opportunity God has given us to be

welcomed into our students' lives to teach English and to spend time with them," said Kendall Nizza, a junior.

After the six weeks were up, the refugee students requested in-home classes, which are still going on. The students are made up of both females and males and range in various ages. When the SEU students started teaching the refugees, they barely could speak any English. After the time they spent with them, they have been able to piece together words in order to read a book.

JESSICA GRIFFITH '16, a December graduate, found the most rewarding part of the program was to see the progression of the students learning English. She has also seen the opportunity to develop friendships with the refugees. "I had been a consistent presence in their life for the past month and a half, that they finally

felt comfortable greeting me as a friend and opening up their home, even going as far as to have tea and cake prepared for us. That class, I couldn't stop smiling," said Jessica.

"Our English classes have given us a bridge into the lives of those who have been hurt and misplaced. These relationships are the most rewarding and the biggest blessings to have experienced," said **MEGAN EVANS '16**.

They plan to expand to holding two classes, a Beginner 1 class for new refugee families with no English proficiency and a Beginner 2 class to continue to work with the families they are currently working with. Next summer they hope to take a small team of students to replicate the six-week format of the class with refugees in the Middle East. ➔



Photo: Pierre DuCharme/The Ledger

SEU PARTNERS WITH THE POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY PROGRAM

Southeastern University and the Polk County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) are partnering together for the first Sentinel Program in the state of Florida, in order to enhance safety for students, faculty, staff and guests of the campus. This one-of-a-kind program enables authorized and properly trained employees of the university to carry concealed firearms on campus for the purpose of rapidly responding to an active assailant on campus. Otherwise, in the state of Florida it is illegal to conceal or open carry on college campuses.

"The safety of our students, faculty, and staff is a paramount concern for us at Southeastern University. We are excited about this new program that will result in well-trained staff being available on campus to rapidly respond to any active assailant threat. We are committed to providing the safest learning environment possible for our university community," said Dr. Kent Ingle, president.

"In addition to all the training, threat assessments, individual intervention, and technology we have invested into our security programs, we know one more critical thing we can do to reduce the number of lives impacted in an active assailant incident is a shorter response time for the good guys to interrupt and

stop the bad guy," said Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd.

According to the United States Department of Justice, it only takes two to five minutes for an attack to be carried out in great length. The intention of the Sentinel Program is to combat attacks through shortening the time of the attack with first respondents.

The Office of the President selected employees who volunteered for the program, and were later screened by the PCSO staff, including criminal background checks, drug testing, and a psychological evaluation.

The participants will be given 100 hours of comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency training for the purpose of providing security on campus during an active assailant incident. The 100-hour block of firearms instruction is 25 percent more instruction than the standard that is required for certified law enforcement officers. In addition to the 100 hours, the Sentinels will also be required to complete 32 hours of deadly force training.


The participants will be appointed by the Sheriff as volunteer "Special Deputies." The Special Deputies will have no authority

to act in any law enforcement capacity outside of an active assailant incident on campus.

The firearms and holsters will be approved by the PCSO. The Southeastern University Director of Safety and Security will retain the names of the participants, documentation of the weapon and equipment inspections, as well as the participants' training certification, inspection and qualification records.

In the event of an attack, the Sentinel Program participants will be clearly visually identified for the benefit of responding law enforcement officers, faculty, staff, and students. Training for the participants began in January, and the program will be implemented in the summer of 2017.

"The Sentinel Program further enhances the safety and security of our campus," said Ingle, who took steps in 2014 to increase security on campus by creating a partnership with the PCSO to provide law enforcement security management for the university.

Under the partnership, the campus Director of Safety and Security is a sworn law enforcement officer and dual reports to the university and the PCSO. 



2015-16 FIRE HIGHLIGHTS

- 63 Academic All Conference Awards
- 46 All Conference Athletes
- 7 All Americans
- 6 Champions of Character
- 5 Players of the Year
- 4 Conference Champions
- 3 Conference Tournament Champions
- 3 Gold Gloves

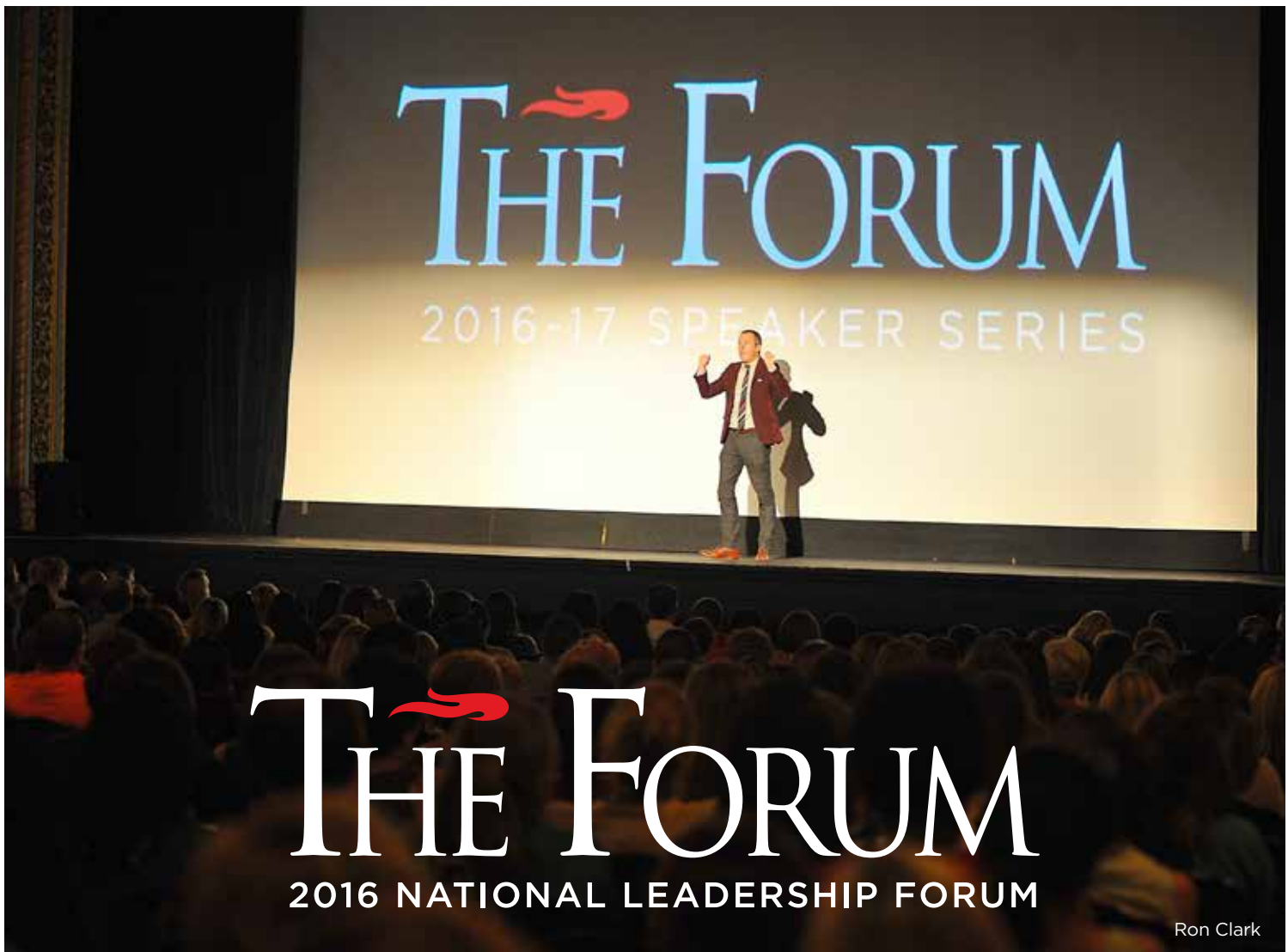


Your donation helps provide student-athletes with opportunities they wouldn't otherwise receive and can help produce more championship-caliber experiences at Southeastern University.

JOIN THE FIRE CLUB TODAY.

440 ATHLETES | 16 SPORTS | 1 FAMILY

Check it out at: SEUFire.com/fireclub or call 863.667.5399




This year, instead of a one-day conference, the Forum was expanded to include four separate events scattered throughout the 2016-17 academic year. The events include a Forum for Education, a Forum for Business, a Forum for Business Communication, and concludes with a Scholarship Gala.

The first Forum event of the year was the Forum for Education with guest speaker Ron Clark in September of 2016. Clark is known to many as “America’s Educator,” the 2000 Disney American Teacher of the Year, a two-time *New York Times* best-selling author and founder of The Ron Clark Academy.

The Forum for Business was also held in September of 2016, with guest speaker Jimmy Collins, the former president and COO of Chick-fil-A. Collins used personal illustrations and stories to tell how he discovered and used his “Creative Followership Principles,” for a successful and satisfying thirty-two-year career of service. Jimmy Collins shared his best advice to be Proverbs 27:18, “The one who guards a fig tree will eat its fruit, and whoever protects their master will be honored” (NIV).

In February, Southeastern welcomed Nancy Duarte back to campus for the Forum for Business Communication. Duarte is the CEO of Duarte, Inc., and

a national best-selling author. She is a communications expert whose firm has created thousands of presentations for the world’s top institutions, including Apple, Facebook, Google, TED, and the World Bank.

The Scholarship Gala will be held on March 10, 2017, with special guest speaker Edward Davis. As the former Commissioner of the Boston Police Department, Davis is a leading expert in counterterrorism, cyber security, and modern policing. The recently released film *Patriots Day* is based on Davis’ personal experiences during the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings. 

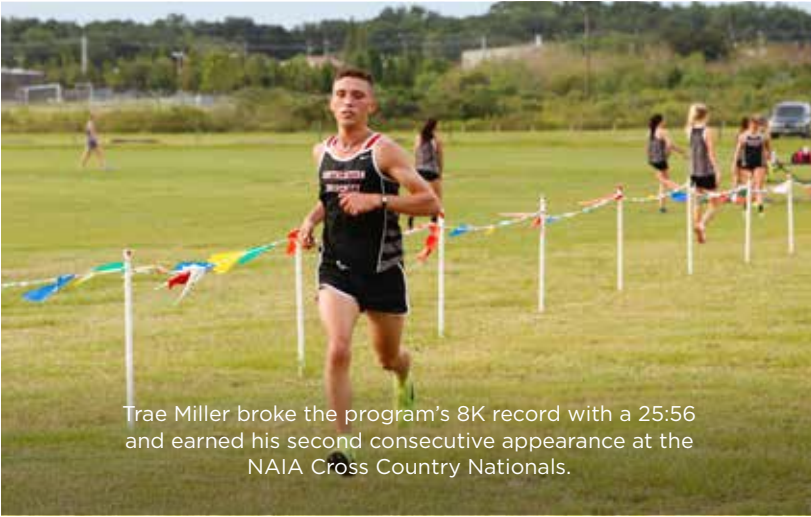


Ron Clark



Jimmy Collins





Trae Miller broke the program's 8K record with a 25:56 and earned his second consecutive appearance at the NAIA Cross Country Nationals.



Julia Kaster had the top performance for the Fire at the NAIA Cross Country Nationals, posting a 18:42 in the 5,000 meter race and finishing 88th out of 334 participants.

ATHLETICS UPDATE



Sun Conference Player of the Year Jarrell Reynolds rushed for 1,021 yards and scored 12 touchdowns this year to lead the Fire to a 7-3 record, a Sun Conference Championship, and the first postseason berth in program history.



Jake Van Der Luit scored nine goals this season, guiding men's soccer to its fourth straight conference postseason appearance.

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

In 2016, the Fire matched their 2015 second place finish at The Sun Conference Championship and once again sent an individual to the national championship. Junior Trae Miller had a standout season, breaking the school record during the Sand Shark Invitational and becoming the first Fire runner to break 26 minutes in the 8K. Twice he was named The Sun Conference Runner of the Week.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The women's cross country team made history this season, winning an

invitational title for the first time in program history, claiming the top spot at the Moc Invitational in September. Additionally, junior Sydni Ogilvie was first overall. Ogilvie broke the school record during the Sand Shark Invitational in a time of 18:25 for the 5K race. The Fire earned their first NAIA Top 25 ranking in program history, checking into the poll on October 26th at No. 24. Ogilvie, along with classmate Megan Fitzgerald and sophomore Julia Kaster, all qualified for the NAIA National Championship following the team's second place finish at the conference championship.

FOOTBALL

A win in the season opener at No. 19 Faulkner set the stage for a special season. With a 5-0 record in Sun Conference play, the Fire won the league title for a second year in a row. The team capped off conference play with a convincing 24-0 win at Webber International, one of two shutout victories during the year. With the conference title and a Top 20 national ranking, Southeastern qualified for the NAIA Football Championship Series for the first time. The Fire traveled to Georgia to take on third-ranked Reinhardt in the national tournament. SEU got as close as eight



Uchenna Kanu netted 13 goals this year to lead women's soccer to a 17-1-1 season, its best win percentage in program history.



Kelsey Morton recorded 241 kills and for the second consecutive season was named The Sun Conference Champion of Character.

in the third quarter, but ended up on the losing end of a 52-22 contest.

MEN'S SOCCER

Playing one of the most difficult schedules in the NAIA took a toll on the Fire, finishing with a 9-9 record after playing five ranked or receiving votes teams, and five teams that made up the final 16 in the national tournament this year. For a second year in a row, the Fire was able to knock off Thomas, which was ranked fourth coming into the game this year. That slate did have its dividends as the Fire went 6-3 in Sun Conference play, but dropped its first game in the conference tournament at Keiser 1-0.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

The women's soccer team enjoyed unprecedented success in 2016, winning its first seven games of the season and allowing just one goal in that span. SEU finished with a 9-1 conference record, which was the most conference wins in a single season in program history. The one loss was to No. 2 Keiser in West Palm Beach by the score of 2-1. An 8-0 win over Ave Maria in The Sun Conference Tournament quarterfinals was the first NAIA postseason victory in program history. Southeastern advanced to the championship game against Keiser, taking the game into overtime, finishing in a 2-2 tie. Unfortunately, the Fire came up short in penalty kicks, ending the season 17-1-1.

VOLLEYBALL

Following a 4-1 start to the season, the Fire went through a season of peaks and valleys, finishing with a 14-12 overall record. Southeastern finished with a 7-7 Sun Conference record, giving regular season and tournament champion Webber International all it could handle in each meeting, winning three total sets. The Fire won four of their last five matches, but came up just short of a return trip to The Sun Conference Tournament. Six members of the team earned Academic All-Sun Conference honors.

This issue of the magazine features alumni from the Jannetides College of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership, which was founded in 1999. In the next few pages, we will share the stories of alumni who have pursued careers in corporate America, leadership in local and international businesses, and financial literacy. You will read about the growing business clubs on campus and some of the accomplishments of our students.

HISTORY OF THE JANNETIDES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP



DR. ED PLASTOW

FOUNDING CHAIR

In 1999, Dr. Ed Plastow made a call to Southeastern College to see if he could take a Dakotas college team to play in Florida the next January. He was not anticipating what would happen next. He had been working as a basketball coach and business professor at Dakota Wesleyan University. One phone call led to the next and eventually Southeastern's administration of Dr. Bill Hackett and former president, Dr. Mark Rutland, invited him to visit Southeastern and later asked him to help start the business program and coach men's basketball. "I was delighted with the vision of the college leadership," said Plastow.

When he first arrived at Southeastern, the business program had seven students and one faculty member. The initial program available was in business management, with marketing and accounting quickly added thereafter. At the end of his second year of developing the program, there were 60 students enrolled in business. He recalls that 2001 and 2002 were big years for the program, as Dr. Bill Hahn was hired to start and grow the accounting program. Drs. Lyle and Linda Bowlin followed in 2002. Dr. Lyle Bowlin led the finance program and served as the first dean of the college from 2004 to 2008. He returned as the dean again in 2015. Dr. Joe Childs served as the dean from 2008 to 2015. Dr. Linda Bowlin started the criminal justice program in 2005, which was moved to the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences in 2016.

"When we came to Southeastern, we invested our most valuable assets," said Plastow. His daughter, **SHARLA (PLASTOW) COOK '03**, attended Southeastern and played basketball, along with the Bowlins' daughter, **AMY BOWLIN '05**. Both were our top accounting majors. Amy was the recipient



of the Outstanding Young Alumni Award at Southeastern in 2014 and currently works at Workiva as a solutions architect, in Jacksonville. Sharla is currently working as the corporate controller for Checkers & Rally Restaurants, headquartered in Tampa. Hahn's daughter, **SAMANTHA AUDETTE '09**, worked for the business department while earning her degree in English. She currently teaches in Polk County. Plastow served as both men's and women's basketball coach, in addition to starting the business program. His career head coaching record at SEU was 198-124, with six national tournament appearances.

During his tenure at Southeastern from 1999 to 2012, the college grew from seven to 500 students in 2012. Due to his hard work in starting and growing the college and the efforts of many, he was selected as the Outstanding Faculty of the Year in 2012.


"We want our faculty to teach what they have done in real life. Our faculty members really care about the students

and will reach out to the students. We are putting tools in people's toolboxes and helping them become better thinkers, writers, and decision-makers," said Plastow.

In 2012, he returned to Dakota Wesleyan University to serve as the dean of graduate studies, while continuing to teach online classes at Southeastern. Three years later, he returned to Southeastern full-time, as a professor and associate dean of the College of Business and Legal Studies.

Since returning to Southeastern, Plastow has helped develop and grow the MBA program, along with Dr. Jennifer Stuke. In May of 2015, the program had 105 students enrolled and in the fall of 2016 they enrolled 192 students. The MBA program is offered as a hybrid – offering classes both online and face to face.

In the fall of 2016, under the leadership of Bowlin and Plastow, the College of Business welcomed more than 860 students. The college has been noted as the fastest growing and second largest college on campus, following the College of Christian Ministries and Religion.

Plastow lives by the mottos of "If you don't have time to do it right, will you have time to do it over?" and James 1:27, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world"(NIV). He and his wife, Shannon, have implemented James 1:27 into their own lives. Every summer they minister in the Alaskan Bush. In addition, their ministry also extends to their family of 10 children, 23 grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and two rescue Golden Retrievers. 



Dr. Hahn (center) with faculty from the business college at his surprise party.

SEU's ACCOUNTING PROGRAM

We all have those teachers who have impacted our lives and challenged us to be the best that we can be. For the accounting students, one professor that had a tremendous influence is Dr. Bill Hahn, professor of accounting. In April of 2016, the SEU Accounting Club threw a surprise birthday party for Hahn. In order to honor him for his service at Southeastern, the students also dedicated one of the classrooms in the Buena Vida building to him, known as the William H. Hahn Classroom.

Hahn joined the College of Business team in 2001, and helped develop and grow the accounting program. When he first started, there were no more than eight students enrolled in the accounting program. The program currently has 60 students. “The accounting major prepares students for careers as CPAs in public accounting or in a variety of positions in private accounting,” said Hahn.

Graduates from the program have had the opportunity to work for the Big 4 national firms (KPMG, Deloitte, EY and PwC), as well as at large regional firms like CliftonLarsonAllen and BDO. Other graduates have worked at companies like Lockheed Martin, banks and other retail and service firms. “It has been fun to watch the program grow, but the fulfilling aspect of what we do in the accounting department is to see our graduates succeed in the workplace. As one example, our graduates pass the CPA exam at a 75 percent rate for first time test takers, and at a 100

percent rate for the Certified Management Accounting exam. This provides evidence that our teaching approach adds value to students’ preparation for workplace success,” said Hahn.


In his classroom Hahn uses the motto of 6P-Principle: Proper Preparation Prevents Pathetically Poor Performance. Hahn has had the privilege to work alongside two other professors in the field of accounting – Dr. Chris Fairchild and professor Natasha Ware. Fairchild was the first to join the accounting program with Hahn in 2006. He had previously worked as an assistant controller in the business office at Southeastern.

“My role, as far as development, has been like a sixth man in basketball. Ed Plastow and Bill started the game and did the heavy lifting to create the program. I got called in next and feel that I’ve been asked to continue the tradition(s). I’ve also been the one who gets to teach the teachers. Bill taught me his method and I have taught it to Brian Dowis, when he was here, and now Natasha Ware,” said Fairchild.

Fairchild’s role in the growth of the program has been that of recruiting. “I actively talk to the students who show promise in the Principles classes. I want to see if they’ve considered accounting as a major or if they might consider it at that point. This keeps our major growing with interested students who have the skills to succeed,” said Fairchild.

Fairchild has taught a variety of the accounting courses from Principles of Financial Accounting to Federal Taxation. This spring he is teaching the capstone class, Business Policies, for the first time. “I love being in the classroom and getting to know the students. I also love being with my coworkers. The ‘accounting group’ as well as the ‘business tribe’ are like families,” said Fairchild.

As a newer addition to the accounting team, Ware is currently in her fifth year of teaching at Southeastern. “When I first started here, I was told (jokingly) by Drs. Hahn and Fairchild not to ‘mess up’ our good students; I’ve succeeded in that role,” said Ware. Prior to working at Southeastern, Ware worked at Ernst & Young for three years. She also worked as an income tax senior for PODS Enterprise in Clearwater, Fla. At Southeastern, she teaches Principles of Financial Accounting, Principles of Managerial Accounting, Tax I, Tax II, Auditing and Accounting Information Systems.

“With teaching in general, I love the ‘ah-ha’ moments – moments when I see students connect the dots or find the missing piece to the puzzle and understand the picture. Those are good times,” said Ware. “While I hardly say it in class, I like the phrase ‘Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.’ I stress to students that this is their education and they need to be responsible for it,” said Ware. 

FACULTY PUBLICATION RANKING

The accounting unit at Southeastern University is ranked 54th in the U.S. for its contributions to published academic teaching and pedagogical research. This ranking, published by Brigham Young University (BYU), is developed from publications appearing in the top 12 peer reviewed accounting journals during the past six years.

The BYU ranking places SEU in the top two percent of the 2,968 four-year colleges in the U.S., as well as in the top third of the 224 colleges whose professors have published in one or more of the top accounting journals used for ranking purposes.

SEU's high publication ranking, combined with a 75 percent first-time pass rate on the CPA exam (top 10 percent of U.S. colleges and universities) and a 100 percent pass rate on the Certified Management Accountant exam, establishes the SEU accounting unit as one of the top performers within higher education accounting programs in the United States.

CPA EXAM PASS RATES (UNDERGRADUATE)

The Accounting program at Southeastern University uses performance on the CPA (Certified Public Accountant) exam as an important external assessment measure that provides evidence of the quality of the accounting education provided to accounting majors. Southeastern University obtains CPA pass rate statistics from a custom report prepared by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA). We used the first-time pass rate for graduates of the most recent two years as our primary measure. The following table presents the Southeastern University CPA pass rate as compared with the national and Florida averages for the 2013 and 2014 testing years. Only graduates with a baccalaureate degree are included in our statistics.

CPA Exam Pass Rates for Southeastern University vs. National and Florida Averages 2013-2014 Events

	SEU	National	Florida Public Universities
CPA Pass Rate	75%	54.8%	58.4%

We view our strong performance as evidence that we add significant value in the process of educating our undergraduate students. This is attributable to the employment of an active learning classroom model, rigorous academic challenge in the delivery of our courses, high levels of student-faculty interaction, the development of an academic work ethic, and faculty with workplace experience related to the courses they teach. The methods we employ are consistent with the Christian ethic of stewarding resources in a way that helps students to discover and develop their divine design to serve Christ and the world through Spirit-empowered life, learning and leadership.






The hustle and bustle of Wall Street's data analysis is coming to Southeastern. Soon, Southeastern students will be able to experience Bloomberg for Education. Bloomberg is the global benchmark for data and analysis, which, according to Bloomberg, will enable students to "analyze financial markets, assess economic scenarios and interpret the key news developments that impact the global economy."

The Bloomberg Financial Market Lab includes ten terminals and ten pairs of dual monitors in a classroom. The lab is located in the Buena Vida East building. A 26-foot digital ticker was also installed above the room in the hall and two 55-inch LED monitors in the classroom carry financial streaming news and headlines.

"Whether students are interested in finance, accounting, management, marketing, or project management, Bloomberg helps students learn about real issues in real time. No

longer do we need to use outdated case studies to address real issues," said Dr. Lyle Bowlin, dean of the Jannetides College of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership.

Students will have the ability to analyze supply chains for over 15,000 firms. They will also have access to daily newsletters on a variety of topics used by firms all over the world. The analytics provide more than 15,000 indexes and 100 metrics, plus coverage of more than 45,000 companies in 108 countries.

"Bloomberg has also created Excel templates so students can easily download information to facilitate analysis of firms and industries. This allows students a competitive advantage in the career marketplace when leaving Southeastern University and interviewing for jobs. These students may well have more information about a firm than the person interviewing them," said Bowlin. 



BATTLEFIELD TO BOARDROOM

SEU GRAD HELPS VETERANS

“Southeastern connected me with lifelong friends and gave me an incredible support system. Launching a business or new non-profit can be scary - it takes a great network. I was amazed and humbled by the support Battlefield to Boardroom received from friends I made while in college,” said **ANDREW AHLSCHEWIDE '07**.

In 2015, Andrew took a break from working in order to be a stay-at-home father to his son, Pierce, and to help his wife, Susannah, build Battlefield to Boardroom in Dearborn, Mich. A national non-profit organization, Battlefield to Boardroom transpired from an encounter Susannah had in 2012 with a childhood friend who was a veteran looking for help with his resume. He was a decorated veteran who had served two tours of duty, but he was not sure how to communicate his military service and accomplishments. She helped him translate his experience, and he got a job.

At the time, Susannah and Andrew were best friends, so she reached out to Andrew to see if he could help. Together, they researched veteran unemployment rates and dug deeper into the gap in preparation for transitioning to civilian work. It was clear there was a need, and Andrew helped her build a business plan for the non-profit. Years later, after they

were married, they worked on launching Battlefield to Boardroom.

“Veteran unemployment rates are high, and our research showed that veterans were often overlooked - though highly qualified - when seeking employment following military service,” said Andrew. “We saw a need to help our heroes get the jobs they deserve, so we started a non-profit to provide free career coaching and resume development for veterans leaving the military.”


Battlefield to Boardroom helps veterans who seek private-sector employment. Veterans often face the challenge of translating their skills, experience and leadership into civilian-friendly language. The goal of Battlefield to Boardroom is to make the transition easier through providing career coaches for free. The career coaches help veterans build their resume, prepare them for interviews and develop personalized networking plans. They have helped veterans transition across the United States, including in Florida, Texas, Alaska and many other states.

Andrew was appointed executive director of the non-profit in early 2016. In this role, he works with the board of directors to manage all aspects of the organization from veteran relationship management,

research, fundraising, relationships with military bases, and pairing veterans with career coaches. He also follows up with the veterans they help to make sure that their transition is going well through their first year of civilian work.

Andrew’s passion for helping others developed after graduating from Southeastern. Soon after graduating, Andrew took a job at GEICO as a claims adjuster for seven years. He also worked on the side as consultant for small businesses and start-up companies.

“At that point in my life, I worked so I could have adventures - during that time I had the opportunity to go to Costa Rica, the UK, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico and many places across the U.S. For the most part, I hadn’t yet found my passion and while I was enjoying my life, I felt a little lost,” said Andrew.

Andrew found himself helping friends with their businesses. This inspired him to pursue his master of business administration at Rollins College in Orlando, Fla., where he developed a passion for business consulting. “All of these skills and adventures helped prepare me for my role with Battlefield to Boardroom,” said Andrew. 



SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN CORPORATE AMERICA



While sitting in a Sunday morning church service in 2007 at Family Worship Center in Lakeland, Fla., **MICHELLE (HILLRIEGEL) TRINDADE '08** listened to the guest speaker. Already enrolled into an MBA program, she would hear Southeastern University's former president, Dr. Mark Rutland, speak words that would change the course of her education and forever impact her career. "Southeastern University is about developing servant leaders to become world changers and our MBA is about a higher level of serving," he said, and with that phrase Michelle had clear direction on what she was to do next.

Soon after, Michelle completed a course she had started at another local college and immediately transferred to Southeastern, where she would earn a master's degree in business administration. She knew what

she was looking for in a program and the type of leader she wanted to become, and Southeastern offered that to her.

Getting to that point in life was not easy. While living in Lakeland, Michelle had experienced the end of an abusive marriage and emerged a single mother with few places to turn. However, Lakeland is where she had the support of both her natural family, as well as her spiritual family at Family Worship Center – the church Michelle's parents introduced her to.

"I grew up in a Christian home but did not have a personal relationship with Christ even though both my grandfather and great-grandfather were ministers," said Michelle. In April of 1997, Michelle discovered the difference between knowing of Christ and having a personal

relationship with him, and a few weeks prior to starting her career at GEICO, Michelle gave her heart completely to the Lord.

Michelle started her career in an entry-level sales position at GEICO; she was soon promoted to supervisor and led teams in both sales and customer service departments. She became a manager in 2001 and a director in 2004. Early into her leadership at GEICO, she learned a valuable life lesson that God does not always call the qualified; rather, God qualifies those he calls. The book *Jesus CEO* left a tremendous imprint on her life. "I discovered that God is not expecting you to be a phenomenal leader when you start a new role. God does expect you to grow into a phenomenal leader through him," she said.



Michelle, who didn't always feel qualified as a leader, found comfort in the realization that "God will help and equip you to grow into your new leadership capacity." Michelle would need that valuable lesson as her growth in the company would continue to expand. With a desire to better herself for a long-term career, Michelle decided it was time to further her education in 2007, eventually finding herself enrolled in Southeastern's MBA program.

"It wasn't until my MBA program at Southeastern that I looked at the Bible as the source of my leadership inspiration," said Michelle. "I read the Bible and aligned what I read to my daily life, and this shift in my approach helped me to become a stronger leader." Being a single mom at this time, managing a blossoming

career, and deciding to go back to school were definitely going to test her organizational abilities.

Michelle holds strongly to the fact that because she went to school while in the midst of her leadership roles at GEICO, it not only affected her positively in the classroom but also at work. "Working on my MBA while in my career differentiated me as an active leader within the team and resulted in my being better equipped in my style, approach and ultimately my deliverables," she said.

In 2007, Michelle would find herself transitioning yet again. What she discovered was that the timing of this transition aligned perfectly with her coursework as she was in the completion phases and working on her Capstone

course, the final class in Southeastern's MBA program. Michelle remembers, "I was able to take the structure and approach being taught, and apply it to the next job, which included process improvement and strategic financial planning."

The timing for Michelle could not have been more seamless as she found herself transitioning from a regional director role after a few years into more of a corporate role and moved to the Washington, D.C., area for a position that had a much broader scope across the larger organization. This was a great fit for her as she showed a strong interest and passion for the areas of process improvement and innovation. Earning her master's degree shortly after relocating to D.C., she would complete GEICO's executive development program, which led to her

selection as the assistant vice president of underwriting in Fredericksburg, Va.

Over the course of her career at GEICO, Michelle finds joy in mentoring people across multiple platforms within the company and beyond. “GEICO has a unique culture and many of the leaders who are long tenured in their careers have been more than willing to bring me alongside and mentor me through the ranks.”

Michelle says, “None of this would have ever happened had I not gone to SEU to continue my education and been presented with opportunities that I worked hard to achieve. God showed tremendous favor in my career and I obeyed him by relocating to D.C.” Michelle’s obedience in allowing the Lord to guide her career steps came with an unexpected surprise.

While attending a New Year’s Eve service at Summit Church in the D.C. area, Michelle took notice of a gentleman, Manny. Although they had served together on the worship team, they didn’t take notice of one another until the 2008 New Year’s Eve Service. One year later, on New Year’s Day 2009, they were married.

Manny recalls one of the many reasons he chose to marry Michelle so quickly and without hesitation was from watching her daughter, Kaitlyn, who he adopted as his own after a few months of marriage. “In watching her interactions with us and with other individuals,” he explained, “I observed how incredibly well mannered she was. I knew that was a taught behavior and she had to have learned that from someone – obviously her mother. Looking back, I like to say that Kaitlyn was Michelle’s character reference.”

After several years of dedicated work, Michelle was extended the position of the vice president of GEICO’s competitive advantage leadership group in 2014. The



group is responsible for developing and implementing business transformation efforts.

God has shown tremendous favor to Michelle because of her talent, dedication, and trust in the Lord. When asked about balancing life while being an executive in a Fortune 500 company, she states, “My work can be 24/7 mentally so learning the art of compartmentalization is critical. I use my commute home to decompress my day.” She also admits that as soon as she walks in the front door that she is no longer a corporate executive. First she is a “wife,” and secondly, she is a “mom.” “My marriage is a priority in my life,” she said. “While my mom has set the bar for success in our family by no means does she take credit for her abilities and talents. She has always given God the glory first. God has directed not only her steps, but our steps as a family – we have always been a team,” says Kaitlyn.

Michelle showed dedication to her daughter, which was evident while Kaitlyn played volleyball. Michelle remembers, “I made it a significant

priority to block it on my calendar and told my team that I’m a mom and I’m going to these games. I never missed one.” Kaitlyn shares, “My mom has always been someone who pushed me to never do things halfway. She makes what she does seem easy and I still haven’t come to understand just exactly how she does it.” Continuing, she remembers, “Every morning, she’s up at the crack of dawn and when she comes home in the evening she’s somehow still smiling and ready to hear about our day. I mean it when I say; she is truly the most selfless woman I know.”

Now with a family in place, Michelle notes that there are different seasons of life. “Whenever I accept a new position within the company there is a definite learning curve that naturally happens. Hours are typically longer, but it is a general understanding that it will take six months to a year before a natural balance and normalcy return,” said Michelle. Manny, quickly adds, “You’re not going to balance work and home life well if you are not selfless.”

Michelle’s successes in both home and work come from a motto that she carries with her daily and is found in Psalm 37:4, “Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart” (NIV). Michelle stresses that in her life it is not her desires that she is after; rather, her prayer is that God’s desires for her will become her desires.

Michelle has the opportunity to invest into many young people starting their careers, whether with GEICO or another company. She often hears that professors are teaching the importance of changing jobs every five years at a minimum in order to climb the corporate ladder. “The best advice I can offer is to find a company where the values Southeastern has helped to grow in you match up with the values of that company,” Michelle adds. “Attach yourself to a growth-oriented company where you can invest in the values, purpose and mission of the company.”

“PERSEVERANCE is required to be SUCCESSFUL.”

In the 20 years Michelle has worked for GEICO, she sees the significance of commitment and the ability to persevere through the difficult times. She understood early on that enduring the tough times is what develops the character of an individual.

“Find a company you can influence; a company with a purpose you can believe in, invest your best asset of yourself, and stick with it when times get tough. The most important investment you have is yourself. If, in your most formative work years, you invest your most valuable investment (yourself), that company will invest back into you. Don’t leave! Stay with it,” she said.

Michelle attributes part of her success to the belief she has an uncommon combination of God-given empathy – a “heart to coach and mentor people” – coupled with a genuine love of math and sciences.

“Being a female in STEM classes growing up wasn’t popular at the time,” she said, “but I stuck with it because I did math for fun. I also enjoyed solving problems in science fair projects. When things get hard is when we, as leaders, should push harder. We have all been called to a greater purpose than just our daily occupation. As leaders, we have influence no matter what company we work for,” she said.

“My wife,” said Manny, “really embodies the ‘grass is greener where you water it mentality.’ She is too busy watering the grass where she is, to be concerned or worried about watering it on the other side of the fence. While others are worried about whether a glass is half

empty or half full, she is worried about ‘how do I fill it.’”

One thing Michelle has learned in business is that you must remain at the top of your game. Not having a degree in information technologies does not mean you will never have to deal with, or even lead, a group overseeing that type of area. Michelle encourages young graduates and mentees around her to continually learn things that will make them better.

Michelle is always reading four to five books at a time. “I focus my reading on what makes me a better leader,” says Michelle. “Every year I read Dale Carnegie’s book *How to Win Friends and Influence People* and recommend it to all I mentor. With the rise in social media, our younger audiences do not tend to prioritize emotional intelligence in communication.


“Additional books that I’d recommend for new leaders are: *The Score Takes Care of Itself*, *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*, and *Turn the Ship Around*.” Michelle continued, “Ironically, if people better understood the principles taught in two of Gary Chapman’s books, *The Five Love Languages* and *Five Languages of Apology* – which were not written as management books – it would help them to build strong, more unified teams within the workplace.”

Michelle has seen tremendous success through some challenging and difficult circumstances because of her determination. She reminds us, “Perseverance is required to be successful.” Finding leadership principles in scripture brought Michelle to Proverbs

3:5-6, which states, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths” (NKJV).

For Michelle, the fountain on campus of Jesus washing Peter’s feet is symbolic of her style of leadership in the workplace. Seeing that statue upon her first visit to campus was additional confirmation that she was right where she needed to be.

Coming full circle now, Kaitlyn is enrolled at Southeastern and is learning from many of the same faculty who taught her mom the qualities that have allowed Michelle to have a successful career. “My mom is my inspiration, the person who I esteem. Her work ethic and motivation to always improve herself as an individual pushes me every day to be the best version of myself I can be. Following in her footsteps at Southeastern, I’ve come to realize I have big shoes to fill. My goal here at Southeastern is to reflect and establish what my mom already started for me. I now have the chance to be successful here at SEU and in life because of the sacrifices my mom made in her own life.” Kaitlyn will graduate in 2020 and hopes to grow in the areas of business and communications as she figures out what God has planned next for her.

Michelle proudly exclaims, “For all those years when it was just me and my daughter, Kaitlyn, I trusted God’s word that promised he would never leave us or forsake us—he never did. I carry this with me daily on a ring I wear as a reminder, that no matter where I am in life, he is always there with me.” 

CLUBS

JANNETIDES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP

CIRCLE K INTERNATIONAL

Circle K International, the student version of Kiwanis, is a club on campus hosted under the College of Business. It has been on campus for more than six years. The student-led club meets bi-weekly and has around 14 members. Throughout the year, the club works on projects to help the community of Lakeland. Some of their projects include helping VISTE (Volunteers in Service to the Elderly), making cards for veterans and packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

During the club's Trick-or-Treat for VISTE event, they donated 30 bags of non-perishable food items that they collected from the homes around Lake Hollingsworth for the elderly. On Veteran's Day, they had a member step up and set up a card distribution service event, in which they made about twenty cards to send to the Lakeland VFW for Veteran's Day. Another service event they participated in was highway trash pickup.



ACCOUNTING CLUB

Although not an official club on campus, the Accounting Club meets several times a year to help prepare students for the workplace. The club provides opportunities for students to learn from employers who present on topics such as workplace expectations, résumé writing and mock interviews, and preparation for the CPA exam. The club has 25 members.

In April of 2016, the Accounting Club members (pictured left) presented Dr. Hahn with a certificate dedicating a classroom in his honor.



enactus™

Southeastern University

Enactus is an international community of student, academic, and business leaders committed to using the power of entrepreneurial action to enable human progress (enactus.org). They believe that **EN**trepreneurial **ACT**ion creates a better world for **US** all. Eleven years ago, a group of passionate students, backed by Dr. Timothy Welch, professor of legal studies, as their advisor, brought Enactus which was formerly known as SIFE to Southeastern University's campus. SEU Enactus has had multiple entrepreneurial initiatives over the years and currently runs six projects that serve both local and international communities.

SEU Enactus has competed in the Enactus National Competitions for



the past 10 years. At the national competitions, universities from across the country present on the projects they are implementing. The presentations are a precise and memorized 17 minutes by a team of six students, along with a slideshow and question and answer time. Executives from Enactus partner companies, many of them Fortune 500 organizations, judge the teams based on factors such as sustainability, entrepreneurial thought, and collaboration. In May of 2016, SEU Enactus advanced from Enactus Regionals to Nationals, placing in the top 60 out of more than 400 United States teams.

There are over 500 companies, organizations, and individuals that partner with Enactus globally. SEU Enactus's Business Advisory Board consists of employees from Unilever, GEICO, W.S. Badcock, Bimbo, CHEP, Chick-fil-A, GTE Financial, YLakeland, Lockheed Martin, Northwestern Mutual, Allen Investments, Polk Sheriff's Department, Walmart, The Home Depot, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, Sam's Club, and Walgreens. Individuals from these companies meet with the team on a monthly basis to support projects through providing experienced input and financial and material support.

Caliber Consulting Group (CCG) is a three-year-old project. It initially partnered with a single small business

annually in Lakeland and has expanded to work with three businesses in 2016. It seeks to help business owners and entrepreneurs set goals and make them happen. Junior Alex Duncan leads the now two-year partnership with Graceful Grains, a local award-winning bakery in Lakeland. The team has been able to increase profit, grow the business' clientele, and help the owner uncover her potential. A Kind Place, which is a store in Lakeland that sells fair trade items as well as local artists' work, is a new partner to CCG. Alex and his team are working with them to market their company and increase revenue. Engineering for Kids is another addition to CCG. Junior Sennua Lawson leads the team working with this franchise. They are helping the business owner expand the program, which exposes youth to science and math in an engaging manner.

ASPiRE is a three-year-old project that has undergone a few pivots, but currently partners with a local Lakeland organization, The New Life Center for Family Preservation. Senior Alyssa Ferreone leads Southeastern students in equipping previously homeless pregnant women at the center with the confidence and skills needed to acquire and maintain a job to support themselves and their family.

Kool 2 B Kind is an anti-bullying campaign birthed out of the tragic



First Regional Championship team with trophy



March 2016 Honduras trip - built a chicken coop for a local farmer and worked with local high school students



Nationals 2013 - Top 60 in the country



Created a book on recycling and read it to local school children

suicide of a Lakeland student. For the past five years this project has utilized collegiate athletes to positively impact students' lives by promoting kindness and decreasing the amount of bullying in schools. There have been a resounding 3,000 plus pledges not to bully since the program was born, and it continues to have positive effects on local school systems. This project is currently led by junior Grace Grevengoed, who played softball for the SEU Fire.

Nuevo Camino is a project based out of Choloma, Honduras. SEU Enactus has collectively made 10 trips to Choloma over the past four years. Their first initiative there partnered with a nonprofit based out of Lake Wales, Compelled

by Christ. They rescued young girls from abusive situations and detainment. "Spring break this year [2017] will only be my third trip to Honduras, but even in that short time it has been beautiful to have built relationships with the girls and see how they have grown and matured," says current SEU Enactus president, Rachel Hoover. SEU Enactus has also started two branches of the local high school entrepreneurial club, My City Movement. Last year they built a chicken coop for a local family to increase household income and sustainability. The team plans to take their annual spring break trip again this year.

Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is a national organization that supports

middle and high school students in starting their own businesses. This is the second year the Polk County branch has been active, and SEU Enactus students have partnered with YEA! and the Chamber of Commerce to mentor these students weekly and provide feedback on business plans, presentations, and more. This year there are 16 students in the program.

On both local and international levels, Enactus is creating change. Students involved are learning to work together as a team in a way that benefits not just themselves, but an entire community. ➔



MICHAEL HANLIN: PREPARE, INVEST, BELIEVE

In a technology-driven world, we often neglect the educational significance of a simple marker and whiteboard. For **MICHAEL HANLIN '10**, the use of a whiteboard teaching method, over PowerPoint charts, was one of the biggest differentiators in the success of his career.

“It [whiteboard instruction] forces the professors to make certain they know the material as they are performing a live exercise versus simply pre-completed charts they haven’t thought about in over two years,” he said.

Although, he admits that the use of multiple colors to break down the learning process might sound elementary, this method has proven to give him a competitive advantage in his career.

The whiteboard method was key to helping Michael build his personal brand at Lockheed Martin (LM), a global security and aerospace company that employs approximately 98,000 people. His first realization of its professional significance was during a daunting project he led in support of a massive system implementation.

“During my interview, they asked me specifically how I would handle a certain type of challenging accounting issue – and told me to walk them through it on – you guessed it – a whiteboard,” he said.

This happened early in Michael’s career at LM. Through the continued use of whiteboards and other tools, he

successfully resolved a major system issue. The problem had been ongoing for two years prior to his arrival, reached the CFO briefing level, and was continuing to get worse at a rapid pace. Since others were not willing to fix the problem, Michael decided to take on the challenge.

“I was given a team of four and after an entire year of incredibly hard and challenging work, we completely resolved the problem. I would not have been able to successfully complete that project without the technical accounting knowledge I gained from SEU or the organizational leadership I developed through Enactus,” he said.

While a student at Southeastern, Michael was highly involved in Enactus



(previously known as SIFE), a global non-profit that consists of university students from all over the world that create change through positive, entrepreneurial action. He was a part of the founding of Enactus and led the student team to Southeastern's first national competition three years later. During his freshman year, he took a public speaking class that he felt contributed to his success in Enactus.

"The teaching was phenomenal as it forced us to watch recordings of ourselves and learn from them through giving ourselves a mock grade. That class gave me the confidence to try out for the competitive Enactus presentation team just six months later. Public speaking has been the single largest differentiator in my career, without question," said Michael.

"I cannot say enough positive things about Enactus. From demanding effective time management, to

developing organizational leadership, to providing competitive public speaking opportunities, there is no better investment made in one's career while at Southeastern. Nearly all of my full-time job interview question answers revolved around my Enactus and LM internship experiences," said Michael.

Michael started as an intern at LM in the cash management solutions organization during his junior year at Southeastern. Upon graduation, he began working full time for LM and a year later was accepted into its Finance Leadership Development Program (FLDP). Michael is approaching his eighth year of working for LM.

"FLDP is designed to prepare high potential employees for positions in leadership. The structured program combines on-the-job experience (three one-year rotations), cross-functional conferences, and formal classroom training," said Michael.

The three one-year rotations included Michael supporting accounts payable in Lakeland, international accounting in Orlando and international financial planning and analysis in Washington, D.C. While working the rotations, Michael also became licensed as a Certified Public Accountant and completed his MBA at the University of Florida.

Michael recently moved out of the finance world and currently serves as a LM F-16 program manager covering multiple countries in the Middle East. The transition all started three years ago when he met Robert Harward, a retired Vice Admiral Navy SEAL, who had just started working for LM. After seeing Michael present some finance-related material, he challenged him to a workout. "I had no idea what I was in for, but I said yes – I couldn't move for three days after, but I kept coming back," he said.

Michael's determination made an impression on Harward. A year after



Vice Admiral Robert S. Harward and Hanlin

meeting, Michael continued to develop that relationship through working out with him and supporting him in special LM projects. When he graduated from LM's FLDP, Harward asked him to come work for him as a strategic planner in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Michael spent the next two years working in that position, where he personally presented the UAE strategy they developed to the CEO of LM, Marilyn Hewson. After volunteering assistance wherever possible and fostering key relationships, he was asked to take the program management role for the F-16 program in Oman.

"Working for the admiral and living in the UAE has provided me with more opportunities and life experiences than I would have ever imagined," he said.

One unique personal opportunity Michael pursued was taking and passing all of the testing required for candidates planning to enlist in the Navy to qualify for the Navy SEAL training called Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S). "While I chose not to pursue it further, the months of training and actual testing was one of the more fulfilling experiences of my life," said Michael.

Three career differentiators that Michael believes remain constant regardless of job title, tenure, or technology are attitude, work ethic, and leadership. "If you can find ways to invest in developing your leadership skills while mastering whatever technical skills you have, or desire to have, you will greatly increase your career



Robert S. Harward, Vice Admiral USN (ret) SEAL

potential in both breadth and depth," said Michael.


He further encourages young alumni to leverage their SEU predecessors, to believe in themselves, and to take the first step towards accomplishing their goals. Michael shares how one Southeastern senior recently reached out to him about his career. He admires how she was the one to take the first step in setting up a time to speak to him, asked him specific questions about his career and expressed her gratefulness for his advice.

"In the nearly seven years since graduating, I've at most had three students reach out to me for any sort of advice or guidance. What a missed opportunity! Why would anyone trying to get their first start turn down the opportunity for free advice from someone who has gone through it and is willing to share?" he said.

Michael further encourages people to believe in themselves. "If you don't believe in yourself, no one else will. No matter what challenge I have taken in life, at some point, I was incredibly intimidated, but that ensured me it was worthwhile. Each time, I had to realize that the alternative of not trying at all was worse than failing and that I could always do it again," said Michael.

His final piece of advice is to take that first step towards achieving their goals. "A quote by Winston Churchill has positively haunted me for years..."

"To each there comes in their lifetime a special moment when they are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing, unique to them and fitted to their talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds them unprepared or unqualified for that which could have been their finest hour."

Michael continues, "One of my major career goals was to work overseas. In order to accomplish this, I made sure I interviewed with international companies and got my passport as I unfortunately did not leave the country before graduation. Two full years after getting my passport, I was given my first international professional opportunity in Hong Kong—with only a one-week notice. Without that passport ready to go on a moment's notice, the majority of the subsequent opportunities I've had over the last five years would never have happened." 



Photos by: Stephen Toney Photography

Change often takes more than one generation to make an impression. For **JEREMY DUNN '06**, change in terms of financial literacy takes educating a generation in order to transform the financial future for generations to come.

Jeremy is an adjunct faculty member at Southeastern who teaches introduction to accounting and finance online in the Jannetides College of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership. He is also a founding board member of Marion Direct—a non-profit organization, which provides sober living facilities to help people with drug addictions. In July of 2015, Jeremy was named to the Marion Community Foundation Board in Marion, Ohio.

Although Jeremy is highly involved in various areas of his career, his primary

focus is on his business, Life.Money, a company that provides financial literacy programs and trainings both nationally and internationally. The idea for Life.Money emerged while Jeremy was taking a class on investment as a student at Southeastern.

“The catalyst for Life.Money was that no one should have to pay for this information,” said Jeremy.

Right out of college, Jeremy started working for JP Morgan in Florida and later relocated to Ohio. He worked there for four years before taking a leap of faith to pursue his passion for financial literacy. “I saw a significant lapse in relevant financial literacy material,” he said.

On October 29, 2010, Jeremy left JP Morgan to pursue his dreams. Just a

few days later, he started Life.Money. From 2010 to 2011, Jeremy worked on getting his master’s in accounting and researching financial literacy in his home state of Ohio.

“I trusted God enough to take all of the risks – built some really good relationships. I married up – there are many things I would have not accomplished without my wife. The person you marry will have a great impact on your future success. I find peace in my home,” said Jeremy.

His wife, **BRITTANI (DAWSON) '06**, helped him create the model and outline for the training materials. Brittani graduated with a degree in elementary education and works as an educational consultant in Ohio. Together, they have two children: Sophia, 5, and Anchor, 10 months.



In 2012, Jeremy published *Life.Money: Student Guide to Financial Literacy*. The handbook includes videos and written lessons, illustrations of each lesson, engagement activities pertaining to the lesson and discussion questions. Each section also ends with a vision sheet, which includes questions discussing the chapter and how to incorporate what the student has learned into his or her life.

“Our vision is to see all students become financially literate. We believe financially literate students will lead to better financial decisions that grow wealth instead of growing poverty. As students become adults, we believe they will shift the volatility within our economy. Financially literate students will make sound financial decisions that create an economy absent of the risk of a recession,” said Jeremy.

The Life.Money curriculum has been implemented in more than 40 schools around Ohio. Life.Money worked closely with the Ohio Department of Education to communicate their curriculum effectively, which is outlined in the Senate Bill 311 and

House Bill 1. In the curriculum, he included real-life experiences that he has seen work in people’s lives. They have also partnered with non-profits that mentor people who struggle with poverty. Additionally, Jeremy teaches eight-week classes on financial literacy in his home state.

Jeremy has also pursued both national legislators and some international. His first international opportunity to share financial literacy was in Bulgaria at an international American school. He taught the students and staff of the school.

“It was the most diverse classroom that I had taught in my life. It was very eye opening to see kids from around the entire world. I learned from that experience that engagement and illustration are the most powerful educational resources. What we learn as children never leaves us,” said Jeremy.

The opportunity to get involved overseas also presented itself to Jeremy when someone in Zambia contacted him about his program. The person had searched the Internet for appropriate

materials for people in Zambia and found Life.Money’s curriculum. After several months of conversations back and forth, Jeremy took a trip to Zambia in 2015 to get a feel for a future partnership. On his second trip to Zambia, they set up Life.Money and submitted a proposal to the government of Zambia.

Their motto is to “Engage every student in Zambia with financial literacy through classroom materials and relational instruction, while building healthy financial behaviors.” They plan to implement their program with the support of the Ministry of Education in Zambia.

Although they are in the waiting process, the materials that Jeremy created are still being used in schools around the country. The program also includes several online lessons that are free for schools.

“It’s important to Zambia – it is individual control and power in life. The most powerful thing is when a family becomes financially strong,” said Jeremy.



He urges that financial literacy is the key to change. If an individual consumer has more resources in local banks through checking and savings accounts, it will increase their control of the monetary policy. This, in return, can boost an economy and wages.

“During the Great Depression, people lost sight of their own personal wealth creation, taking on debt and relying too much on the market performance. It crippled our economy,” said Jeremy.

Personal financial management education can bring changes for generations to come. Jeremy suggests that within two or three generations, it could change the platform. This impacts the power an individual has on the monetary policy.

“It’s more about doing one small thing over and over again,” said Jeremy.

Life.Money is currently partnering with the YMCA in Zambia in order to provide financial literacy materials in schools. The YMCA in Zambia is a socially involved program that helps make people aware of social issues, including AIDS or teen pregnancy.

While on his first trip to Zambia, Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio invited Jeremy to meet with staff members of the U.S. Senate Banking and Finance Committee to discuss financial literacy among middle school and high school students. The staff shared their concern for the recent rise in consumer debt in the last five years and the role of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

In April of 2016, Jeremy met with the CFPB and pitched an idea for a statewide financial literacy program. He was able to discuss how legislation in support of a nationwide financial literacy program could have sustainable funding through the CFPB. The support of the effort would also need to include the Department of Education to help provide accountability with implementation of the program.

“The road to financial literacy is frustrating. Nothing changes in education without legislation, which is true in many places and countries. Unfortunately we live in an age where when I present an idea like mine, it becomes an uphill battle. What we do takes time to be measurable and there is a lot of work ahead,” said Jeremy.

Although the future of Life.Money includes waiting on national and international governments, Jeremy is excited to see dreams he had as a student start to unfold. Life.Money is currently working on expanding their program to Ethiopia with a partnership with the Ethiopia Central Bank.

“Be faithful and be led and walk through the door God opens next. The only plans I have are whatever doors God opens for me. A lot of people get to a certain point and have too much security with their current income. Very few people have that willingness beyond normal sacrifice or commitment,” said Jeremy.

He also credits what he has been doing since graduation to the professors and relationships he built while a student. “The best thing I did was to build a relationship with Dr. Bowlin and Dr. Hahn and that has continued through my professional career. My experience would never have been what it is without my relationships with my professors. It is important to find mentors that are better than you to help you navigate your career,” said Jeremy.



CREATING THE BALANCE CULTURE

Left to right: Ruthie (Glover) Tait '13 and Kirstin (Koleniak) Czernek '11, '13 MSPC

In early 2014, Southeastern released a commercial that highlighted alumna **KIRSTIN (KOLENIAK) CZERNEK'S '11, '13 MSPC** journey as an online student turned health and wellness business owner. Little did Kirstin know that her feature in a Southeastern commercial would foreshadow a thriving business venture that has greatly impacted the Lakeland community.

While filming this scripted commercial, Kirstin had minimal intention of starting a fitness studio. This commercial highlighted Kirstin as she worked part time at Southeastern's Portico Coffeehouse while earning her business degree online to ultimately opening a yoga studio.

This was a slightly fictional story.

Kirstin graduated from Southeastern with her undergraduate degree in psychology and later earned her master's in professional counseling.

During her master's program, Kirstin also worked as a therapist while gaining an interest in fitness and nutrition. She began to develop a deeper understanding of holistic counseling and the connection between mind and body.

"Working with my clients on their emotional needs didn't feel like enough," said Kirstin. "I wanted to take a more holistic approach."

She began to search for businesses in Central Florida that took this approach to counseling and came up short. While communicating her desire to see more holistic counseling in the area, her husband

encouraged her to start a business that fit this framework. Through this support, Kirstin began to develop her business strategy.

The initial business concept started with Kirstin meeting individually with clients and providing counseling, fitness and nutritional services. Southeastern's Enrollment Marketing department found out about Kirstin's developing business idea and pitched it as a story concept for their first full-length commercial.

The pressure was on for Kirstin.

With the commercial slated to air in early 2015, Kirstin began preparation by developing a business strategy that involved increasing her online presence.

“I wanted there to be a way that if people ever looked me up from watching the commercial, I would have a web presence,” she said.

From there, her business name was developed: The Balance Culture. She wanted a central website that provided her nutrition practice and thebalanceculture.com became that hub. Kirstin also started a personal blog that helped drive a lot of online traffic to The Balance Culture website.



Through her increased online presence, more people began to reach out to Kirstin about meeting for individual, holistic health coaching. Business grew rapidly, and a need for an office space became inevitable. So Kirstin began the search for a small business office which she would quickly outgrow; The Balance Culture transformed from a small office into a studio space.

Kirstin’s best friend, **RUTHIE (GLOVER) TAIT ’13**, shared similar health and wellness passions and reached out to Kirstin about her interest in being involved with the business. As co-owners, they both worked together to continue to expand The Balance Culture’s reach. In the summer of 2015, The Balance Culture started to host free pop-up classes in its studio space.

“The community really came behind us,” said Kirstin.

A few months later, The Balance Culture officially opened its doors as a fully-operating business. All classes offered during their grand opening day were packed out. Kirstin and Ruthie were in awe that hundreds of women came through the studio that day alone.

“This past year has been a learning process,” said Ruthie. Kirstin and Ruthie both credit a lot of their success to their core team. “What makes all the

difference in the world is that the instructors and the interns care about their role in The Balance Culture,” she said.

What makes The Balance Culture stand out from other fitness studios is all in the name.

“The culture of The Balance Culture is the foundation of who we are, and we want people to feel that when they come through the doors,” said Kirstin. “Coming to the studio is more than coming to a fitness class...we want people to have an experience.”

Careful thought and intention has been put toward fostering a healthy environment at The Balance Culture. For plenty of people, fitness studios can appear intimidating from the outside. The Balance Culture has worked toward fostering “a safe place to work out,” said Kirstin.

Ruthie and Kirstin have both been able to look back on their time at Southeastern and see how it has greatly influenced their success in creating this environment and in their business endeavor.

“Making people comfortable when they come into the studio is really important to us,” said Ruthie. Ruthie’s time as a social work major at Southeastern gave her the

confidence in her people skills to better foster a welcoming environment in the studio. She also credits her involvement in sports and being the captain of the Southeastern Fire Volleyball team as pivotal leadership roles that have taught her how to lead a team.

While working on her master’s degree, Kirstin also worked alongside professor **CHRISTINA GARD ’14 MAML** to develop and implement Connect Groups, a discipleship program that

allows students to gather weekly in small groups with faculty and staff.


“Having that opportunity, to start something from scratch, gave me the confidence to do it all over again,” said Kirstin.

This past September, The Balance Culture celebrated its one-year anniversary. In over one year, the studio has nearly doubled in its attendance and instructors.

“Classes have more attendees now than when we started,” said Ruthie.

The Balance Culture has recently undergone an extensive expansion, adding two additional studio rooms and a personal training space. This summer they are looking to add cycle classes as they continue to diversify their class offerings.

A long-term goal for The Balance Culture team is to grow their nutrition practice by adding health coaches to make The Balance Culture a full-service wellness center.

“With every decision we make, we look for ways to continue to help clients find community, make them feel empowered and the best version of themselves,” said Ruthie. 

ALUMNI NEWS



HOMECOMING 2016

Over 100 alumni came from various states across the nation to celebrate Homecoming 2016 on Southeastern's campus. The theme for this year's Homecoming event was Sun, Sand & SEU. Alumni gathered in the new Student Activities Center for the Alumni Legacy dinner on Friday, October 21, where they heard the vision of Southeastern's president and leadership team members. On Saturday, October 22, the classes of 1965 and 1991 celebrated their 25th and 50th anniversaries at a luncheon held in the campus restaurant, Tuscana Ristorante. Prior to the football game, SEU alumni enjoyed tailgating together in a beach-themed area complete with sand. Alumni cheered on the Fire as they won against Point University (45-0).

Mark your calendars now for Homecoming 2017 on October 20 & 21 for a Hawaiian Luau.





ISRAEL

ALUMNI & FRIENDS TRIP

Have you ever wanted to visit the places you have read about in the Bible? If so, make sure to check out this opportunity to travel with fellow SEU alumni. The trip will be led by Dr. Joe Davis, professor of religion.

MAY 9-18, 2017

- Visit the birthplace of Jesus
- See the Garden Tomb
- Walk the Palm Sunday Path
- See the remains of King David's Palace
- Be baptized in the Jordan River

For more information, please visit TheIsraelAdventure.com or contact Dr. Joe Davis at jhdavis@seu.edu.



70s Class Reunion

ALUMNI REUNIONS

If there's one thing that can be said for Southeastern alumni, it's that they love spending time with friends from college days! Over the past several months, there have been a number of these mini-reunions and regional alumni events in addition to October's Homecoming weekend in Lakeland. Fortunately, the Alumni Office has been on hand at several of these reunions with camera in hand.

Montgomery, Ala., was the center of activity last July when approximately 60 alumni from the 70s got together to share stories, laugh, sing, eat and pray together. These alumni have come together as a group several times over the past few years, and they share a special closeness that is unique among college classmates. That closeness was especially evident as they prayed for each other and for their children, grandchildren, and friends. The 70s group plans on holding future reunions at SEU's Homecoming each

fall – and they most certainly will find time during Homecoming weekend for the 70s alumni to eat bar-b-que and sing together again!

Another reunion, of sorts, happened in September when retired faculty and staff members were invited to come to campus to tour some of the new academic buildings and have lunch together. Many of these former professors and retired staff members had not toured the campus since new academic buildings were completed, so they were able to see Suzie, the mastodon, in the College of Natural and Health Sciences; tour the nursing simulation lab; and visit classrooms, offices and the common area in the new Buena Vida live/learn building before enjoying lunch in the campus restaurant.

December brought together several members of the championship men's basketball team from the Coach Dale

Campbell era in the late 70s and 80s. Dr. (Coach) Campbell, who currently serves on the faculty at Vanguard University in California, was in Florida for a few days, so **FRANK LOPEZ '84** organized a dinner reunion with former teammates and coaches who could make it to Lakeland on December 3. The evening was filled with stories about team bus trips, player pranks, the basketball skills of certain players, a Dallas Mavericks game, and even institutions still dealing with segregation into the late 70s. After several hours of storytelling, it was decided that they shouldn't wait 30 years before getting together again!

The Alumni Office also hosted or attended events in Texas, North Carolina and New York, and plans on hosting more regional alumni reunions in 2017. Be looking for information about upcoming events in your area.





SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

On December 2, Southeastern hosted the Science Symposium, with nursing student presentations and senior capstones. Some of Southeastern's science alumni returned to campus to help judge the competition.

One of the participating judges was **DR. REBECCA "BECKI" DICKERSON '10**. Becki is currently working as a registered pharmacist for Publix in Central Florida. She works as the assistant manager in a pharmacy of the grocery chain. Her job entails filling over 300 prescriptions a day, monitoring for drug interactions, providing immunizations to patients, performing blood sugar and cholesterol screenings, leading her team of pharmacy technicians, and managing the business aspects of the pharmacy. Becki also gives comprehensive medication reviews (CMRs) to her patients, where she goes over the medications being prescribed, and any issues or concerns that may arise with the medications. Another aspect of her job is advising other healthcare professionals on the safe and effective use of medications. As an expert in the field of medicine, she might recommend a different medication, dose, duration or instruction to physicians.

While a student at Southeastern, Becki worked as the lab manager and was a teaching assistant in the College of Natural and Health Sciences. "All the professors did

a great job of instilling knowledge in us for our future plans. They were very loving, but also provided realistic expectations. I have learned that with God, hard work and diligence, you can do anything you set your mind to," said Becki.

In 2015, Becki graduated from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Pharmacy, with her doctoral degree in pharmacy. She has been practicing for one year. During her fourth year of pharmacy school, she did rotations in acute care, emergency medicine, oncology, anticoagulation, and diabetes management in both the hospital and outpatient settings. Her final rotation was with Publix.


Becki's advice for students hoping to pursue a similar career is to get involved early and to have an overall understanding of the healthcare system. "Get out and volunteer as much as you can. Familiarize yourself with all aspects of the healthcare field and understand how the healthcare team functions collectively," said Becki.

Becki is married to **CODY TESSLER '12**, instructor of mathematics at Southeastern.

CHRISTINE (VILLAVICENCIO) CORRIGAN '05, '12 MEd also assisted with judging the symposium. Christine is

working as a primary teacher at Magnolia Montessori Academy in Lakeland, Fla. Prior to working as a Montessori primary teacher, Christine worked as a certified middle school science teacher in Polk County. For six years, she was a stay-at-home mom to her daughters Elea Jane, 8, and Sara Grace, 7. Christine's husband, **DR. PAUL CORRIGAN '07**, is a professor at Southeastern.

Currently, Christine is working on getting her Early Childhood Certification from Palm Harbor Montessori Teacher Education Center (PHMTEC). In a Montessori classroom setting, students are able to choose their own lessons based on their interests and plane of development, and Christine guides the students as a classroom directress. Both of her daughters are attending a Montessori school.

Christine credits her practical experience as a student to have helped her in her teaching career and as a parent. As an undergrad student, she was the vice president for the Student Body Leadership Council (SBLC). She also worked as publications manager and as a yearbook editor for three years. Christine advises students to "Get involved. Your practical experience will go hand in hand with your academic experience. Go after activities for practical experience." 



Marlene and David Bishop

Family Legacy: DAVID BISHOP FAMILY

With a heart for the unreached, **DAVID BISHOP '07, '12 MED** followed in the footsteps of family members before him through attending Southeastern to pursue a degree in ministry. “When I came to Southeastern in the fall of 2003, I was confused and hurting. It provided a safe place for me to become the man that God called me to be,” said David.

David’s great-grandmother, **ONEIDA (GRAHAM) BRENGLE '59**, was the first of his family members to graduate from Southeastern. His grandparents, **JACK '59** and **MARY (BRENGLE) WISE '59** met at the school and eventually retired from the pastoral staff at Victory Church in Lakeland, Fla. His aunt, **CINDY (WISE) PENDARVIS '89**, who became blind at four years old, graduated from Southeastern and later earned a master’s degree so that

she might be able to counsel those in need of solace and wisdom. His uncle, **CARL WISE '92**, became a math teacher and then software developer for the blind in St. Petersburg, Fla. He also serves as a Sunday school teacher at Glad Tidings AG in St. Petersburg.

Soon after starting his bachelor’s degree, David joined the safety and security team as a student worker in 2004, and later worked full time with the team until 2013. “In the decade that I spent learning and working at the school, God used many of my friends, professors and co-workers to speak into my life,” said David.

David met his future wife, Marlene, at a pickup soccer game in south Lakeland. Not realizing he was a Christian, she invited him to listen to a devotional on the

side of the field as part of an evangelization effort. David, having been a pastor’s kid and an SEU student, listened carefully to see what she would say. Only afterward did he share with her that he had been called to serve in Eurasia. She had also felt God’s call to serve unreached people groups as a teenager and five weeks after their meeting they were engaged.

At the time that they met, Marlene was working on a master’s degree in reading education at USF and David was working on a similar degree at Southeastern. The two would graduate a day apart from each other.

“She was sweet, cute, enjoyed soccer, and loved Jesus with all of her heart. She was exactly what I was looking for in a wife. Asking her to marry me was easier than I



Oneida (Graham) Brengle



Mary (Brengle) Wise



Jack Wise



Mary and Jack Wise



Sophia and Chane Eplin

ever imagined it would be. I know and see every day that she is a godsend,” said David. They were married November of the same year of meeting.

Although Marlene did not attend Southeastern, she had two family members that did attend. Marlene’s father, **CHANE EPLIN ’82**, attended Southeastern and he is currently the bureau chief of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) for the state of Florida. Marlene’s sister, **SOPHIA EPLIN ’14**, attended Southeastern and currently works at the Florida Baptist Children’s Homes in their emergency shelter as a caretaker.

David and Marlene are both licensed Assemblies of God ministers and have served as the co-youth pastors at Gateway

Assembly of God under Pastor **BOBBY HENIGSMITH ’84** in Auburndale, Fla., since the summer of 2014. In the spring of 2015, David and Marlene applied to go on a two-year trip to serve in Eurasia and were approved in December of that year. They have done very well with itineration while continuing as youth pastors. They are quickly approaching their goal of serving together with unreached peoples in Eurasia. They plan to leave for Eurasia during the summer of 2017.

When asked what advice he would give to future Southeastern alumni, David said, “Love Jesus and plan for the long game. I am already fulfilling the call of God on my life even though I have not yet arrived to Eurasia. God has not called us to perfection now. He has called us to

walk with Jesus. As we learn and grow and spend time with Jesus, we realize that he is enough and that the things we thought were vitally important when we were young may not have been so important after all. Walking with Jesus instead of seeking perfection is the way to overcome depression and anxiety. Making the choice to chase perfection is choosing to give Satan a foothold in your life because you are seeking something God is not offering. The call of God is a journey – not a destination or a single action. Let Jesus be enough in times of action, inaction, happiness, sadness, disillusionment, and anger. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, will walk you through all of this as you follow him, and the hope and joy that he offers is priceless.”





SO THIS IS WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

by Cheryl Roth, Director of Annual and Planned Giving

As a member of Southeastern's Advancement team, I am often asked, "What exactly does the Advancement Office do?" or "What is the Annual Fund?" Sometimes the question is, "Do you really like traveling so much?" Others on the Advancement team are often asked these same questions. "Office of University Advancement," unlike Office of Admission, Student Financial Services, or Athletics, is a rather vague title that doesn't really tell you what we do at Southeastern.

The answer to the first question is that Advancement's responsibilities include raising scholarship and program funds, connecting with alumni and planning alumni events, applying for foundation and corporate grants, hosting fundraising events, as well as public relations and visits to supporting churches, pastors

and individuals to thank them for their gifts. Yes, it involves a lot of traveling. Yes, I actually do like driving and meeting new people who have a connection with Southeastern University. And yes, our alumni are some of the best people around!

As to why we do what we do, the answer goes much deeper and is about a lot more than hosting events or visiting alumni and friends of the school. In 2016-17, Southeastern University will award scholarships or other institutional aid to 93 percent of our students, with an average financial aid award of \$10,400. Just in our College of Christian Ministries and Religion alone, \$9.6 million in financial aid will be awarded this year to 1,656 students with a ministry major or minor.

These students are why we all do what we do.

Each year, we hear from hundreds of students who write letters to our donors to say "thank you." Many of these students come straight out of high school; some visited campus with their church youth group. Others may be parents or adults who are going back to school to fulfill a dream or a passion that they've put on hold for years. Some are international students hoping to get an education in the United States so they can return to their home as doctors or teachers. But these thank you letters all have one thing in common. All of these scholarship recipients are grateful to those who gave to help them complete their education, and they all recognize the gift as an answer to prayer.

Here are just a few of these letters from scholarship recipients:

After a sleepless night, wondering if I was going to graduate, I received a phone call that turned everything around. Because of your donation, I am able to graduate this semester! After hanging up the phone, all I was able to do was cry and praise God for bringing me through a tough, yet incredible, four years! I am one of seven siblings. We have faced poverty my entire life after my mother had a brain aneurysm when I was seven. We have been in real financial hardships to the point that my family was homeless in my sophomore year at Southeastern. I am the first of my family to attend college and your donation has helped me so much. Thank you for investing in me.

I am an MK (Missionary Kid) whose parents and family live in Tanzania, East Africa. We rely on support from America to run our clinic and do the work that God has called us to do. And now, scholarships, such as yours, are what makes it possible for me to attend Southeastern University. I am excited to be able to return to school this fall as a junior and continue to grow towards my B.A. in Multi-Disciplinary Studies!

Thank you so much for the \$600 scholarship I was given! I have been working very hard to pay for my college tuition in order to graduate with as little debt as possible, and it was such an encouragement to me. I will continue to work hard (academically and at my job in order to pay for school). Words cannot express how grateful I am for this scholarship. May God bless you for the endowment that you invested in to help students like me.

I am a single mother of two and also a domestic violence survivor. I don't think a letter could express the gratitude I feel from your generosity. Four and a half years ago, I embarked on a new journey. I packed up my little ones and drove cross country. I took hold of God's promise of a new beginning, and God has always been faithful. He has (given) me a good job that provides for my family, and has given me support through the Body of Christ. God opened the door for me to start this year at SEU and I was not sure if I was able to handle it financially. But God continues to amaze me! Thank you for being a big part of making it possible for me to continue my education.

So **THIS**
is why
we do
WHAT
WE DO!

Thank you so much for blessing me with a scholarship! I work at (a local restaurant) and lose count of the hours that I pour into my job to pay for college tuition. I have been praying for a miracle to happen to help me in this journey of college! I praise God for placing it on your heart to bless a student like me.

This summer, I felt God was leading me across country to work in a summer camp, but I hesitated because I would not make enough money to pay for my tuition. God reassured me that finances would never be an issue when I am pursuing Him. Upon arrival at camp, I received an email that I had been awarded an endowed scholarship! God is so good! I felt so much weight come off my shoulders! I can't thank you enough for investing in my dreams. I have no one helping me with school, so I am working two jobs and going to school. But I am determined to keep pursuing the dreams God has put on my heart. Words will never explain how thankful I am to you!

COMMENCEMENT

Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2016!



Congratulations to the fall graduating class of 2016! A total of 269 students participated in the ceremony, with one doctorate, 76 graduate, 184 undergraduate students, and seven associates. Students were represented from 30 different states and four countries, including Kenya and India.

The commencement speaker was Brian Kilmeade, a television personality. Kilmeade joined *Fox News* in 1997 and was soon named co-host of *Fox & Friends*, where he still works along with Steve Doocy and Ainsley Earhardt. He also hosts his own nationally syndicated radio show, "Kilmeade and Friends" on *Fox News Talk*.

The student speaker was Amanda Glenn. Amanda plans to pursue her master's degree in social work from USF next year. She is interested in working with teen mothers and individuals in the juvenile justice system.

The commencement class also included the first doctoral student to graduate and successfully defend her dissertation in Southeastern history. Commencement videos are available online at SEU.edu/academics/graduation/videos/.

FIRST SEU DOCTORAL STUDENT GRADUATES



CANDI RING '16 EdD has the honor to be the first student to graduate from Southeastern University with a doctoral degree. Candi received her doctorate of education during the December ceremony. The doctoral program, which was launched in the fall of 2014, currently has 140 students.

“The doctoral program has been a labor of love from the faculty in the College of Education for years, and to see a student navigate the program successfully shows the faculty that their hard work has been worthwhile,” said Dr. Amy Bratten, dean of the College of Education. “It’s a tangible feeling of satisfaction and excitement. We are proud of Dr. Candi Ring’s accomplishment, and we know she will represent Southeastern well as she positively impacts the field of education.”

Candi successfully defended her dissertation on November 9, 2016. Her dissertation was on administrator perception of classroom and behavior management, comparing traditionally and alternatively certified teachers.

“I am the third in my family to graduate high school and the only to go to college,” said Candi. “As a child, I was homeless, and my parents struggled to make ends meet. Education wasn’t something that was emphasized, but I had a passion

for learning. I hope to be an example to others.”

While completing her doctorate, Candi juggled the responsibility of a family, as well as two jobs. For the last ten years, she has served as a teacher in Polk County. Candi also serves as an adjunct professor in the English department at Southeastern. She hopes to one day be able to use her doctoral degree to teach full time at the collegiate level.

“The most rewarding part of this experience has been the knowledge I have gained that I have been able to apply in the classroom. The relationships I have developed with the faculty at SEU, as well as members of my cohort, have also proved invaluable. The doctoral degree will enhance my role as an educator, as I will be more adequately prepared to meet the needs of my students,” said Candi.

A DISNEY DREAM

Some dreams take years to come true, but for **JOSHUA WADDY '16**, his dream came true soon after graduating from Southeastern. Growing up with a musical family, Joshua always dreamed of being a part of the Voices of Liberty, an eight-piece a capella group. Following his graduation, Joshua auditioned for the group in August of 2016 and found out in mid-September he had been chosen to be a part of the group as a tenor. The Voices of Liberty perform in the Candlelight Processional at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla.

“This is a dream come true. I always wanted to be in the group so it is mind blowing,” said Joshua. The Candlelight Processional tells the biblical Christmas story of the birth of Jesus with a celebrity narrator. The show this year featured celebrity narrators including Neil Patrick

Harris, Whoopi Goldberg, Steven Curtis Chapman and many more.

While singing for Disney, Joshua has had the opportunity to perform in front of the CEO of Disney, as well as top executives for the company. *Inside the Magic* broadcasted the show online with an audience of over 70,000 people. The rehearsals for the show take place over night. Joshua spent countless hours at Disney rehearsing from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. He then performed three nights a week, three times a night.

“When you want something, go for it 100 percent. You will hear a lot of noes, but all you need is one yes,” said Joshua. While at Southeastern, Joshua was highly involved in extra curricular activities, including SEU Worship, musical productions and the Jazz Ensemble. Joshua learned the



Photo by: Courtney Reynolds

importance of auditioning in order to get where he wanted to be. “Anyone that wants to pursue a similar career should be proactive in auditioning because the environment and atmosphere prepares you,” said Joshua.

FOCUS on FACULTY



1 DR. PETER ALTHOUSE, professor of religion and theology, had an article, “The Prophetic Cry for Justice: A Pentecostal Response to the Racism of Mass Incarceration,” published in *Ecumenical Trends* in August of 2016. He published “Women Praying for Women: The Gendered Embodiment of Charismatic Healing Prayer” in *Women in Pentecostal and Charismatic Ministry: Informing an Ongoing Gender-Focused Dialogue on the Faith Contributions of Women*; “Jesus, Empire and Christian Ethics: Moral Critique of Mass Incarceration in the United States” in *Christian Morality: An Interdisciplinary Framework for Thinking about Contemporary Moral Issues*; and “Betwixt and Between the Cross and the Eschaton: Pentecostal Worship in the Context of Liturgical Play” in *Toward a Pentecostal Theology of Worship*.

2 DR. KENNETH ARCHER, professor of theology and Pentecostal studies, was invited to teach a course on “Pentecostal Theology and Holistic Mission” at the Seminario Biblico Pentecostal Centroamericano (SEBIPCA) in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, in June of 2016. He was also invited to Brazil, where he presented a paper titled “A Global Pentecostal Theological Methodology: Worship, Witness, and Work” to the III Seminário Internacional “Pentecostais, Teologia e Ciências da Religião” at the Methodist University of São Paulo, Brazil. Archer had his essay, “Listen Carefully! You Might Learn Something,” published in *JEPTA: Journal of the European Pentecostal Theological Association*.

3 BRIAN BLUME, assistant professor of percussion, recorded and published three new compositions for percussion through TapSpace Publications: *Persistence* (percussion

quintet), *Black Racer* (percussion quartet), and *Songs of Eden* (collection of five marimba/vibraphone duets). He composed a drumset solo for the Percussive Arts Society’s publication *Rhythm! Scene* in June of 2016, entitled “Beat Back.” He published an article/interview about the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps in *Rhythm! Scene* in August of 2016, entitled “Bluecoats 2016: Turning Drum Corps Down Side Up.” He also contributed three articles to *The Percussion Compendium, Vol. 1*, an educator’s resource published by the Percussive Arts Society.

4 DR. AMY BRATTEN, dean of the College of Education, was appointed chair of the site review team for UCF’s five-year site visit in January. As chair, she will coordinate the off-site review process and the on-site review visit. Bratten will facilitate all steps of the process with the institution and collaborate with Florida Department of Education during the process, and ultimately, submit the team’s findings and suggestions to Florida’s Chancellor of Education.

5 DEBBIE BROWN, assistant professor of English, will be presenting a paper titled “Increasing Writing Competence through Pedagogically Based Instructor-Student Conferences” at the Northeast MLA conference in Baltimore, Md., in March.

6 CHRIS CLARK, associate professor of film production, was the guest presenter at Creative Studies in September at the Just Dance Studio in Lakeland, Fla., on the topic, “Why do movies move us? Because the production of a movie begins with a good story.”



7 DR. PAUL CORRIGAN '07, associate professor of English, had five of his poems accepted for publication in *Saint Katherine Review*.

8 DR. PAM CRISS, professor of social work, and

9 DR. MARLEEN MILNER, chair of the department of social work, were the recipients of a grant in collaboration with Heartland for Children in 2015-16. The grant was awarded by the Florida Institute for Child Welfare for a project entitled "Preparing Teens and Protecting Futures." The project addressed teen pregnancy among youth in residential treatment by implementing Wyman's Teen Outreach Program (TOP) at eight group homes for youth in Polk, Highlands, and Hardee counties, and addressing the needs of pregnant and parent teens in care through the Child and Family Service Review Process.

10 LINDSEY (BASHAM) CROSTON '03, '15 MA, lecturer of theology and biblical studies, presented a paper on "Shekinah Presence and Sustained Discipleship: A Practical Theology of Glory for Clergy and Lay Leadership" at the Exploring the Glory Conference at Durham University (St. Johns College) in Durham, UK during July.

11 DR. JEREMY CUMMINGS, assistant professor of psychology, planned and co-facilitated the annual meeting of the Spiritual and Religious Issues Special Interest Group of ABCT, Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies. Cummings also moderated a panel discussion titled "Spirituality and Religion in CBT."

12 DR. MARGARET ENGLISH DE ALMINANA, associate professor of historical theology and women's studies, was a panel speaker at the Association of Youth Ministry Educators Annual Conference Orlando. Her article, "Scandal and Censure: A Reinvestigation of the Socio-Political

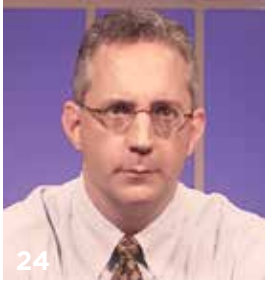
Forces Surrounding the Disappearance of Aimee Semple McPherson," was accepted by the *Canadian Journal of Pentecostal-Charismatic Christianity* for publication in the 2016 edition.

13 DR. STEVEN FETTKE, professor of religion, had his article, "What Makes an Excellent Teacher?" published in *The Pentecostal Educator*.

14 CHRISTINA GARD '14 MAML, assistant professor of human services, spoke in Portland, Ore., at the annual Flourish Conference. She also was the keynote speaker at the Puyallup Foursquare Church Ladies Conference in Puyallup, Wash., with over 1,000 women in attendance. Additionally, she contributed to an article for *Lifezette*, an online magazine. The article focused on healthy dating relationships.

15 DR. LEONARD GIAMMETTO, professor of sport management, was appointed by the CEO of the Lakeland Family YMCA as an advisory board member of the First Tee and the Par 3 golf course of Lakeland.

16 DR. ROSALIND GOODRICH, associate professor within the Counselor Education Graduate Program, spoke at Morningstar Community Church in Salem, Ore., on "Depression: How to Prevent, Cope, Treat, and Heal." This community outreach event provided mental health education to the church community and addressed topics such as the clinical indicators of depression, evidence-based treatments for depression, special topics such as depression and grief, depression and anxiety, depression and substance abuse. The presentation was followed by a panel including pastoral staff and community mental health practitioners, and provided information regarding local resources for participants.



17 DR. DAVID GRANT, associate professor of education, has been asked to serve on two committees for updating the Florida Teacher Certificate Examinations for the Exceptional Student Education Subject Area Examination.

18 DR. WILLIAM HACKETT, provost, presented at two workshops at the PenFlorida District Council of the Assemblies of God Experience Conference. The workshops were entitled, “Marriage Secrets for the Long Haul” and “The Church and the LGBT+ Issue – How Should the Church Respond?” He is on the advisory board for the student academic programs commission for the Coalition of Christian Colleges and Universities. In September, he was on a program review team to evaluate the Los Angeles Film Studies Center where many of Southeastern’s film majors study for a semester in their film program.

19 DR. RICHARD HARRIS, associate professor of communication, was recently a guest on *Real Talk with Dr. David Anderson* on 105.1 FM WAVA in Washington, D.C. The topic was on “Race Relations in America: Where Do We Go from Here?” Harris is the author of *One Nation Under Curse* and is known for his work in the area of building bridges between races and moving beyond diversity to “conversity.”

20 DR. LARRY HAZELBAKER ’76, professor of psychology, spoke on the topic “The Dynamic of Group: The Psychology of Being in One Accord” to a group attending the PenFlorida District Council of the Assemblies of God Experience Conference in September of 2016.

21 DR. TAE EUN KIM, associate professor of mathematics, presented a talk on the topic of “Measuring the Intensity of Tornadoes” at the joint meetings of the Mathematics Association of America at Saint Leo University, in St. Leo, Fla.

22 ROBERT KING, lecturer in the department of entrepreneurial leadership, was the recipient of the Kiwanian of the Year award for 2015-16. The award reads, “In Recognition of Exemplary Service and Dedication.” This award followed the President’s Club Award for 2014-15 for the same involvement.

23 DR. PATTY LEBLANC, professor of education, had her essay on an influential teacher in her life published on the Kappa Delta Pi blog. LeBlanc is a member of SEU’s Alpha Beta Mu chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society in education.

24 DR. BRUCE LILYEA, adjunct professor of business, was promoted from the position of reviewer to assistant editor for *The Qualitative Report*, which is a peer-reviewed, online monthly journal. Additionally, he is the lead author for a journal article entitled “Conducting a Systematic Literature Review on Water-related Attitudes, Behaviors, and Stakeholder Engagement Approaches in Florida: Strategies and Tools,” published in December in the *International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences: Annual Review*.

25 DR. ADRIAN MANLEY, associate professor of human services/administration, spoke to student affairs professionals at Valencia College in Orlando in their Hacking Higher Ed series about the importance of values in building a career in higher education.

26 DR. CAMERON MCNABB, assistant professor of English, had her blog article, “The Mysterious History of the Ellipsis, From Medieval Subpuncting to Irrational Numbers,” published in *Slate* in August of 2016.

27 JASON OLD, professor of Spanish and Latin American studies, was a part of the Cuba Panel in November for the Global Studies Committee at USF Manatee-Sarasota. Old is taking students to Nicaragua as part of



the 2017 Nicaragua Study Abroad Program. It is his fifth consecutive year as the director, guide and professor of this program. He is also working on his Ph.D. at USE.

28 JAMES PATON '84, chair of the department of psychology, presented to the faculty of The Learning Center (K-12) in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, in August. He spoke about child and adolescent development as it applies to both academic growth and building interpersonal relationships between students and teachers. He also presented a cognitive strategy that incorporates the fruit of the Spirit in interpersonal relationships at Life Church in Matagalpa, Nicaragua, in summer 2016.

29 DR. ANDREW PERMENTER, vice president of institutional research and extended education, led a workshop at the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at their annual meeting. He presented on the topic "Academic Program Review from Critical Processes to Implementation."

30 DR. ERICA SIRRINE, dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, served as master of ceremonies at the Good Shepherd Hospice's luncheon, Seasons of Service: A Conversation with Wise Women, in September. An article she co-authored in 2009 was recently featured in the virtual issue of "Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal." She also presented at the 70th Annual Conference of the Florida Association of School Social Workers in October. Her presentation was entitled "Working with Resistant or Mandated Children and Parents." She also had the opportunity to present at an event hosted by Career Services at Polk State College. Her presentation was entitled "Finding Your Career Path in Social Work."

31 SHEILA SKIPPER, assistant professor of public relations, was awarded the Polk County Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA) Member of the Year, also known as the 2016 Bob Gernert, APR, CPRC

Member of the Year, for her work with the SEU FPRA student chapter.

32 DR. ALAN SNYDER, professor of history, had his book, *America Discovers C.S. Lewis: His Profound Impact*, released by Wipf and Stock. Last July, he presented a paper on Lewis at the C.S. Lewis Foundation's summer conference at the University of Amherst in Massachusetts. In September, he was interviewed on a Christian radio network in New Zealand about the book. The interview was broadcast throughout that country. In October, he spoke about his book to the New York C.S. Lewis Society in Manhattan. This society was the first in America dedicated to the study of Lewis, having been inaugurated in 1969.

33 DR. KENNETH STEPHENS, chair of the department of human services, was the key presenter at a men's conference in Leesburg, Fla. The theme was from a workbook created by Stephens entitled "Man in the Mirror: What Does My Reflection Say About Me and My Walk with Christ?"

34 DR. ZACHARY TACKETT, chair of undergraduate studies in the College of Christian Ministries and Religion, had his article, "Mama Smith's Studio: Reflections on the Study of Piano as a Matrix for Teaching Historical Theology," published in *The Pentecostal Educator*. His article, "Callings, Giftings, and Empowerment: Preaching Women and American Pentecostalism in Historical and Theological Perspective," was published in the volume, *Women in Pentecostal and Charismatic Ministry*. He also had a paper entitled "As Citizens of Heaven: Perspectives on Peace, War and Patriotism among Pentecostals in the United States during World War I" published in *American Churches and the First World War*. In March of 2017, he will present on the topic of "Conscientious Scruples: Approaches toward War and Peacemaking within the United Pentecostal Church and the Assemblies of God during the Cold War Era" at the Society for Pentecostal Studies.



35 DR. LEROY VANWHY '10 MBA, assistant professor of business and leadership, presented at the International Leadership Association (ILA) conference in Atlanta, Ga. He presented his dissertation findings for “Development of the Authentic Followership Profile (AFP) Test Instrument.” It is the first-of-a-kind, empirically validated test instrument to measure the construct of Authentic Followership.

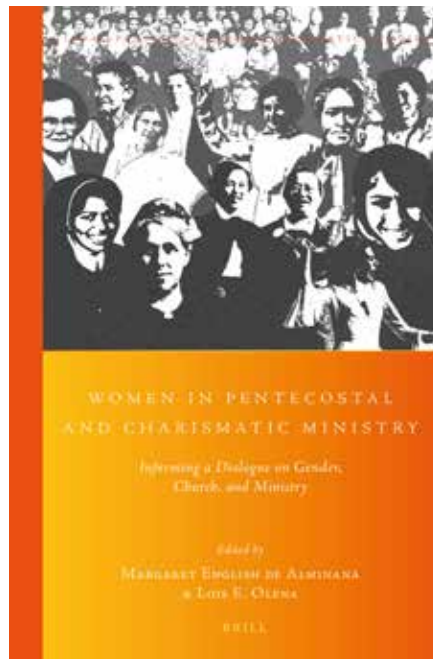
36 DR. ROBBY WADDELL, professor of New Testament and early Christian literature, co-authored four articles with **DR. PETER ALTHOUSE**, professor of theology, that were published in *Pneuma: The*

Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. The articles published were “The Promises and Perils of the Azusa Street Myth,” “The Expansion of Pentecostal Scholarship,” “The Pentecostals and Their Scriptures,” and “New Charismatic Networks and Other Theological Matters.” Waddell also is presenting on “Saints vs. Heroes: The Triumph of Spectacle in American Culture and Film,” at the Society for Pentecostal Studies in St. Louis, Mo., in March of 2017.

SEU Faculty Members Published in Scholarly Volume on Women’s Ministry

Professors from the College of Christian Ministries and Religion contributed to a scholarly volume published on the study of women in Pentecostal and Charismatic ministry. The volume, entitled *Women in Pentecostal and Charismatic Ministry*, was published by Brill and is an addition to the series *Global Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies* by William K. Kay (Glyndŵr) and Mark J. Cartledge (Regent). The volume centered on the question, “How have Pentecostal Charismatic women of faith responded to a religious context that often has limited their voices and perspectives while, at the same time, depended upon their many gifts?”

“Importantly, the book has offered a female perspective to an oft-heard Pentecostal narrative that has generally been framed by men and not women. It attempts to present the ‘standpoint’ of women Pentecostals, theologically and historically speaking, and to give a voice to Pentecostal and Charismatic women. Presenting this ‘standpoint’ as such is new,”




said Dr. Margaret English de Alminana, associate professor of historical theology and women’s studies at Southeastern.

De Alminana was approached by the series editor, and she recommended Dr. Lois Olena, a professor at Evangel

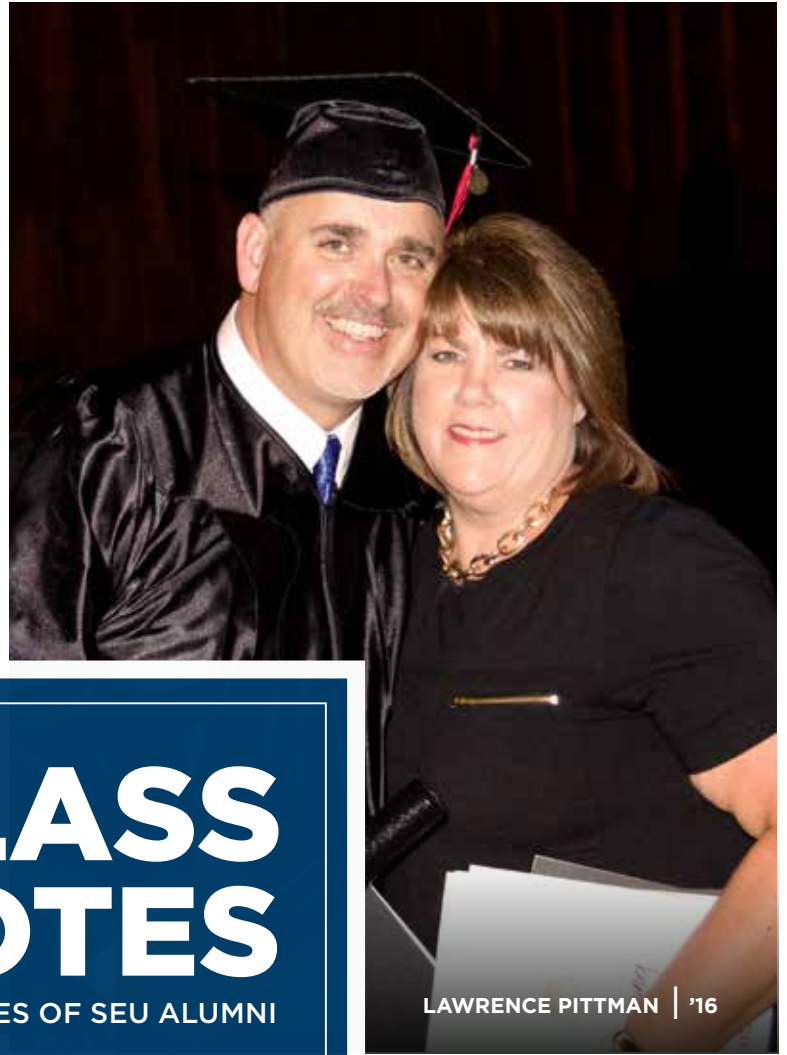
University, as co-editor. Both editors contributed chapters to the book in addition to editing.

“My dissertation was written on *Women in Pentecostal Leadership, A Biographical Survey of 20th Century Female Pentecostal Leadership and An Incipient Egalitarian Struggle*, as well as my undergraduate thesis, *Patriarchy or Shared Leadership?* As a Pentecostal woman who was called but struggled for affirmation and opportunity, I am committed to helping other women become all that God called them to be,” said de Alminana.

The volume includes articles from three other Southeastern professors, Dr. Melissa Archer, associate professor of biblical studies; Dr. Zachary Tackett, chair of the undergraduate studies in the College of Christian Ministries and Religion; and Dr. Peter Althouse, professor of theology. The volume is available at Brill and Amazon. 



BRIANNA KUCK | '14



LAWRENCE PITTMAN | '16

CLASS NOTES

IN THE LIVES OF SEU ALUMNI



AMANDA (GOODSON) HAHN | '09



JUDY (BARTEL) GRANER | '66



NANCY (KEITH) BUXTON | '61



FAHED ABUAKEL | '70



DANIEL HUDSON | '79



DAVID STRICKLAND | '80

1957

BERNARD (BROWN) BROWNE and **DESSIE BROWNE** '55 retired after nearly 50 years of pastoring. They have two daughters (Becky Thomas and Ginger Peddicord), four grandchildren and five great grandchildren. They live in Beachton, Ga.

1961

NANCY (KEITH) BUXTON retired in 2016 from Cleveland City Schools in Cleveland, Tenn. Her husband, Robert, retired from Church of God Pentecostal Seminary as CFO in 2016. They have been married for 53 years and have two children and nine grandchildren. They are members of North Cleveland Church of God.

1962

GERALD FRIX and his wife, Shirley, celebrated 58 years of marriage on August 10, 2016. They have two sons, Phillip and Keith. Phillip is a regional representative for Edward Jones in Smithfield, Va. Keith is the pastor

of Life Church in Rainbow City, Ala. Gerald and Shirley also have five grandchildren.

1965

JIMMIE POLK celebrated 51 years of being a pastor in August of 2016. He also received his 50-year certificate of ordination from the General Council of the Assemblies of God at the Mississippi District Council in May 2016. Jimmie pastors a small group that meets in his home and cares for his wife of 51 years, **BETTY**, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's 18 years ago. He credits his four years at Southeastern for the stability and guidance he needed for his 51 years of full-time ministry.

1966

JUDY (BARTEL) GRANER is an Assemblies of God missionary and teacher throughout Spanish-speaking Latin America and the Caribbean. Her husband, Steve, passed away in 2011 from pancreatic cancer. She earned a Ph.D. in intercultural studies in 2000. She is a teacher, writer and translator for Faith & Action Series in Latin America. Faith & Action Series are pastoral study books that are

available in English, Spanish, Chinese and other languages.

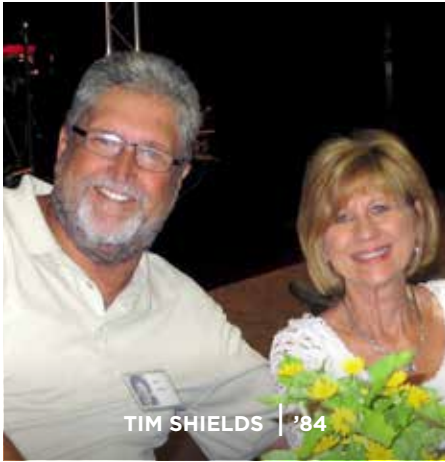
1970

FAHED ABUAKEL received a master of divinity at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga., after graduating with his undergraduate degree from Southeastern. He earned a doctorate of ministry at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Ill., and was the missions pastor at First Presbyterian in Atlanta, Ga. In 1978, he founded the Atlanta Ministry with International Students, Inc. He was the director of Christmas International House, overseeing 30 cities in 2000. After retiring in 2012, he is now a caregiver for his wife, Mary, a retired Mercer University professor.

CHARLES WALKER is a graduate of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Mo., with a master of divinity. He pastored churches and is a retired Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Army Chaplain.

1976

GERALD (LEVECK) CARR and **ESTHER CARR** pastored two



churches in North Carolina, then returned to Jacksonville, Fla., to be employed as funeral directors and embalmers. They retired in 2011. Esther is still currently employed as an insurance agent. They have two grown children, Jonathan and Erica.

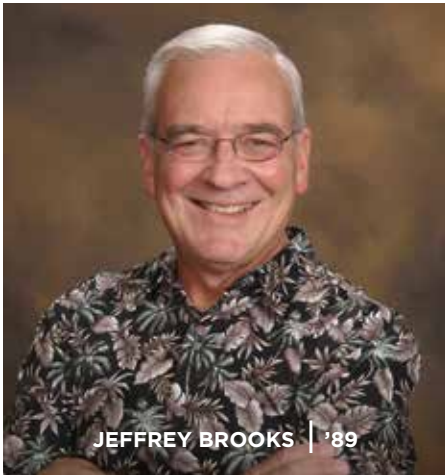
1978

ALBERT and **REBECCA (KIRKLAND) VEALEY** are pastoring at Mt. Calvary Christian Fellowship, an Assemblies of God church, in Murphy, N.C.



1979

DANIEL HUDSON and his wife, Rosemary, have five children and live in Michigan. Dan is the owner and operator of Mission Home Improvement, which is in its thirtieth year of business. It is a construction company building homes, remodeling, and using profits to support and go on missions volunteer projects. Rosemary founded, runs, and teaches at Veritas Academy, which features project-based and multi-age learning for its 50 students from K-12.



1980

JAN (CRUCE) DEKLAUON earned a master of arts in theological studies from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in 2006, and retired from teaching in the Clarksville, Ind., school district in 2008. She is currently mentoring college women at Boyce College in Louisville, Ky. Jan and her husband, Dave, do not have children but are spiritual parents to the students at Boyce, where Dave is a New Testament professor.



DAVID STRICKLAND married his wife, Carol, in 2004. They have three

daughters: Joy, Carla and Leah. He is the director of first year experience and a full professor of sociology at East Georgia State College in Swainsboro, Ga. He has published two textbooks, *Sociology* and *College Success: A Concise Practical Guide*.

1984

TIM SHIELDS retired from a 32-year career of teaching and coaching in Lakeland, Fla. He has been married to his wife, Jan, for 33 years. They plan to travel and split their time between their Lakeland home and their condo in southwest Florida.

1986

ALAN DALE and his wife, Renee, have been married for 27 years. They have a 23-year-old son, Jeremy, and a 17-year-old daughter, Chelsey. Alan currently serves as the assistant missions pastor at Springhouse Worship and Arts Center in Smyrna, Tenn. He also founded and oversees Coffee Cup Ministries, which serves single parent families, widows, a biker ministry, and includes men's discipleship.

1987

MARISOL HERNANDEZ has a ministry, Shalom Shalom, with her husband where they broadcast five television programs around the world in English, Spanish and Arabic. They reside in Los Angeles, Calif.

1989

JEFFREY BROOKS retired from the U.S. army chaplaincy in 2013 after twenty-two years of active military service. He now resides in Riverview, Fla., where he just finished his first book, *Resting in God's Shadow: Encouragement*



KEVIN WHIDDEN | '96



SHEREE (STEBBINS) PAYNE | '97



RAMON and ANDI (O'CONNOR) BASSETT | '95, '98



TRAVIS MINNICH | '04

for Military Boot Camp, that will be published by Deep River Books in the spring of 2017.

DAVID HOWELLS and his wife, Toni, reside in Beaver Falls, Pa. David earned a master's degree in theology from Southern Bible Institute and Seminary in Thomson, Ga. Since 2004, he has been the senior pastor at Church of the Living Christ in West Bridgewater, Pa. David and Toni have four children: Jed, Maranda, Reese, and Vincent, and one grandchild. Their son Jed and his wife, Celeste, have a son, Judah.

1990

TERESA (BULLARD) SWANN is the children's outreach pastor at Victory Church in Lakeland, Fla. She became involved in Kids Club in 1992 as a volunteer and started working full time at Victory in 2000. Kids Club ministers to 300 to 500 children a week. She and her husband, Sam, have been married for seven and a half years.

1994

JOE FIORENTINO married Lori Flynn of Toronto, Ontario, on July 9, 2016, at Trinity College Chapel in Toronto.

1996

JOSEPH LAMB is the founder and CEO of Qsource Networks. Qsource is a managed network services company based in Atlanta, Ga., founded in 1999. Qsource was named one of the top 250 small business IT service providers in the United States in 2016.

KEVIN WHIDDEN was elected as the new lead pastor at Rowan Christian Assembly in Salisbury, N.C., on July 10, 2016. His first Sunday was August 14, 2016.

1997

TIMOTHY HASS is in his sixth year of pastoring Cornerstone Assembly in Williston, Fla. He and his wife have a son in college, a daughter in middle school, and a son in K4. He finished his bachelor of arts in Christian education at Patriot University in Del Norte, Colo., in 2014, and was ordained in May of 2014.

SHEREE (STEBBINS) PAYNE works as a crime and intelligence analyst with the Melbourne Police Department. Sheree lives in West Melbourne, Fla., with her husband, Jeremy, and two-year-old son, Eli.

1998

RAMON and ANDI (O'CONNOR) BASSETT '95 recently relocated to the Chicago area where Ramon is a partner and vice president of sales for Pure Water Systems of Chicagoland. Ramon was previously in Raleigh, N.C., and Seattle, Wash., at similar positions honing his skills in anticipation of being part-owner of a company himself. They have five children: a 2016 high school graduate, Daniel; a 16-year-old football player, Josiah; a 15-year-old soccer player and artist, Zoe; a 13-year-old basketball player, Ezra; and another basketball player, 10-year-old, Gabriel. Andi spends her day feeding, driving and helping the crew with everything, and her favorite is watching their sports games and volunteering at their schools and church.

2004

TRAVIS MINNICH and his wife, Sunshine, serve at First Assembly in Youngsville, La., as the students' pastors over children and youth. On August 23rd, they welcomed their sixth child.

CHRISTINA (VINCENT) OLDACRE and her husband, Adam, live in New Orleans, La. She has been



CHRISTINA (VINCENT)
OLDACRE | '04



DEBRA KELLY | '05



MATTHEW AND ASHLEIGH (JONES)
CAVE | '07, '08



KATHRYN KIMBALL | '08

married to Adam for a year and a half. Christina helped with a church plant and works for a non-profit organization called Next Generation. They go into public middle and high schools to help facilitate character education clubs. They are currently in 49 schools and meet with 4,000 students a week. They discuss topics such as dealing with anger, friendships, and human trafficking, and they present a biblical perspective of dealing with the issues.

2005

DEBRA KELLY obtained her Florida Teacher Certification after graduating from Southeastern. Over the past 10 years, she has taught in multiple grades at Oscar Pope Elementary School and South McKeel Academy. In November of 2016, she began working as the director of children's ministries for Lakeside Baptist Church in Lakeland, Fla.

2007

MATTHEW and **ASHLEIGH (JONES) '08 CAVE** welcomed their twins Henry and Eleanor "Ella" on December 15, 2016. They are currently living in Wesley Chapel, Fla. Ashleigh is working as a claims

adjuster at USAA Insurance in Tampa and Matt is working as a college placement advisor at Calvary Christian High School in Clearwater.

2008

KATHRYN KIMBALL made history as the University of Florida's first alumnus to be named to a United States Supreme Court clerkship. During the 2018 term, she will clerk for Justice Clarence Thomas. She currently works as a criminal prosecutor in the Tax Division at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

IVELISSE SANTIAGO is a compliance specialist for the Polk County Tax Collector.

NATALIE (BROACH) UPRICHARD went on the mission field to Belfast, Ireland, after graduating from Southeastern. She met her husband, Andy, there, who was a youth pastor. Andy is principal and vice president at Children's Educational Services, Inc., in Jacksonville, Fla., and Natalie is a professional photographer. Her younger sister, Lydia, is a sophomore this year and will be the last of the four girls to graduate from Southeastern.

2009

AMANDA (GOODSON) HAHN and her husband, Jerry, are serving as youth pastors at Oxford Assembly of God in Oxford, Fla. They have been there for five years.

NATHAN PEARCE is an elementary theatre teacher in Fayetteville, N.C. He married Elizabeth Mangum on October 29, 2016. Nathan has also been in several productions at local theaters.

LINDA (ST. CYR) RIVERA and her husband, Angel, have started a small church. They have three children and one grandchild.

MELODY (KAUFFMAN) SOWDEN married her husband, Troy, on November 13, 2009. They are the lead pastors of CityChurch of Olive Branch in Olive Branch, Miss. They have two children, Judah (two years) and Alexa (six months).

2010

BRENT and **ANGELA (WAGNER) CARVER '98** are foster parents and have five children, between biological kids and



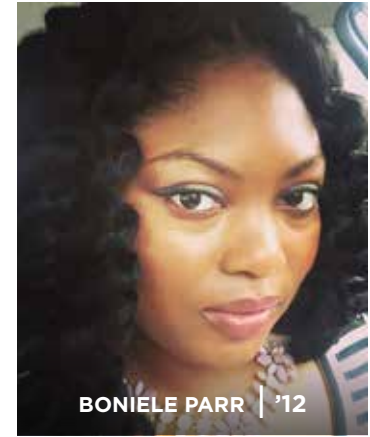
**IVELISSE
SANTIAGO | '08**



**CHRISTINA (SARA)
SPURLOCK | '11**



**DAVID and RACHEL
(LAFLAM) BORDEN | '12**



BONIELE PARR | '12

hope-to-be adoptees. Brent is the conference director for a nationally known nurses' society, and Angela is a stay-at-home mom for all of their children and standard poodle.

2011

CHRISTINA (SARA) SPURLOCK

developed a knack for the training side of the audio-visual world. She works as the technology instructor for Analog Way, Inc., and is based in Buford, Ga. Christina manages all aspects of the company's customer training for the Americas and her product knowledge is used around the world through the Analog Way Academy's online training broadcast.

2012

DAVID and RACHEL (LAFLAM) BORDEN

have been living in Nyack, N.Y., since getting married in 2013. David graduated in May of 2016 with his master of divinity from Alliance Theological Seminary in Nyack, N.Y., and Rachel will be graduating in May of 2017 with her MBA from Nyack College. David recently accepted a position as campus pastor of The Gathering Church in Stamford, Conn. David is also a First Lieutenant in the Army Reserve and is a

Chaplain Candidate. Rachel currently works as an admission counselor at Nyack College.

BONIELE PARR is a career specialist for a non-profit called the Boston Private Industry Council (PIC) in Boston, Mass. She is in two alternative education high schools serving students ages 16 to 22. She assists with their professional development and finding summer/after school jobs. She started her master's degree at Lesley University in Cleveland, Tenn., for clinical mental health counseling with a holistic specialization.

2013

SIANNA DAVIS is getting married to Daniel Thomas on May 6, 2017. Three of her bridesmaids are friends that she made while attending Southeastern. Sianna was a part of the SEU soccer team while she attended.

2014

LAURA EDWARDS was named the Fort McCoy School Rookie Teacher of the Year 2017. She is in her second year of teaching K-5 general music in Fort McCoy, Fla. Her curriculum includes singing, dancing, baritone ukulele, recorder, mallet instruments, and world drumming.

She recently started working toward Orff-Schulwerk certification and she has completed her Level 1 courses.

BRIANNA KUCK is currently the event and communications coordinator for Nathaniel's Hope, a nonprofit dedicated to celebrating the lives of kids with special needs. She handles all mass communication, social media and marketing for the organization, and also plans local events for kids with special needs. She is in graduate school pursuing her master's in mental health counseling in hopes of being a licensed play therapist for kids and adults.

2015

LAKISHA HUBBARD-WILLIAMS

is working on her doctorate in organizational leadership with an emphasis in K12 Leadership at Grand Canyon University. She is the author of *The Power of Words*, a poetry book. She resides in Kenner, La., with her husband and daughter.

2016

CHRISTIAN BORES was accepted into his top choice program to pursue a doctorate in physical therapy at Nova Southeastern.



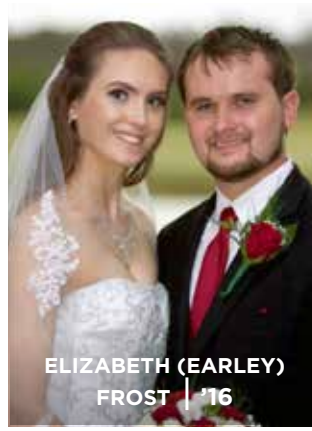
SIANNA DAVIS | '13



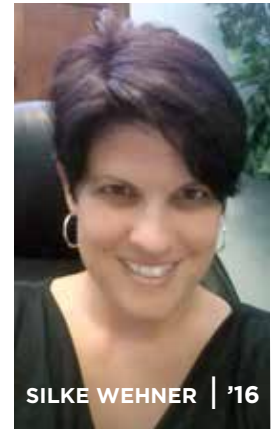
LAKISHA HUBBARD-
WILLIAMS | '15



CHRISTIAN BORES | '16



ELIZABETH (EARLEY)
FROST | '16



SILKE WEHNER | '16

ELIZABETH (EARLEY) FROST is a second grade teacher at Gateway Christian Academy and an after school choir director for the middle and high school students. She married Alex on October 15, 2016.

REMY LORY accepted a job at Arizona Western College in Yuma, Ariz., as the assistant women’s basketball coach. His job entails scouting teams, recruiting as well as developing players on and off the court.

LAWRENCE PITTMAN realized a lifelong dream of completing his undergraduate studies at Southeastern

in the spring of 2016. He began his journey at Southeastern in 1983, and in the past three years continued his degree online. Lawrence was in full-time ministry for the majority of his adult life. He is planning to pursue his education further through the MAML program at Southeastern.

BRETT RUPP works as the assistant store manager at Joseph A. Bank at Lakeside Village in Lakeland, Fla.

ANDREW SMITH married his wife, Gabrielle, in August of 2016. He plans on pursuing a master’s degree in applied linguistics in the fall of 2017.

He also finished his fourth and senior year as an SEU cross-country athlete. Andrew and Gabrielle serve at Life Church in Auburndale, Fla. Gabrielle is working at Ulta and finishing school at Southeastern. Andrew works at Starbucks at he prepares for graduate school.

SILKE WEHNER is the vice president at ESP Financial in Orange Park, Fla.

CLASS HIGHLIGHT

KARL PANSLER '82 has been honored with several awards and recognitions in the legal field since graduating from Southeastern. He has been conferred the 2014 Litigator’s Award, which ranks him among the top one percent of all lawyers for personal injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice, automobile accident, and brain injury litigation. He has been named in Rue Ratings’ Best Attorneys of America, where less than one percent of the attorneys of America have been invited to be a member. The Pansler Law Firm has

been named “Most Client Focused Personal Injury Law Firm-Florida” for the 2016 Legal Elite Awards. He was also named one of the “Premier 100” Trial Attorneys for Florida by the National Academy of Jurisprudence 2016. He has received the America’s Top 100 Lawyers Lifetime Achievement Award. The National Trial Lawyers: Top 25 Mass Tort Trial Lawyers Association has selected Karl for inclusion into its Top 25 Mass Tort Trial Lawyers, an honor given to only a select group of lawyers for their superior skills and qualifications in the field.



IN MEMORIAM

1957

JAMES “JIM” ANDREWS passed away on August 17, 2016. Jim and his wife, **MAXINE '79**, served as Assemblies of God missionaries to Taiwan for 53 years, and Maxine continues their ministry in Taiwan today.

1960

CLIFFORD “PAUL” TRIMBLE passed away on November 26, 2016. In addition to graduating from Southeastern, he was a graduate of Evangel College and earned his M.Ed. from Xavier University. Paul helped start the men's basketball teams at Southeastern and Evangel. He had a successful career as an educator, coach, and later as a contractor. He also served in the Navy. He is preceded in death by his parents A.C. and Faye Trimble and sister **ALVIS HARTHERN '55**. He is survived by his wife Janie; and his children and their spouses;

BETH (TRIMBLE) '82 and Dwight Leslie, and Bill and Amy Trimble; his stepchildren, his sister and brother-in-law, his eight grandchildren and one great grandchild. Two of Paul's grandchildren graduated from Southeastern and two are currently attending.

1964

PEGGY (MCGLOTHLIN) SCHLOE went home to be with Jesus on March 18, 2016, after suffering with ALS. She was Miss Southeastern in 1964. Upon graduating that same year, she married **JERRY**, and they started their ministry ventures in Tampa, Fla. Peggy was a mother of three sons and a grandmother of seven. She loved her family and is greatly missed by them.

1972

SYLVIA “NELL” SMITH, wife of **VICTOR '72, '06 MAML** passed away on December 12, 2016. Nell was born on August 21, 1950, in Hartsville,

S.C. Victor and Nell were married for 44 years. Victor serves as the district superintendent of the South Carolina District of the Assemblies of God. She is survived by her husband; their three sons and wives: Justin and Angela, Camron and Andi, and Ryan and Kati; and their ten grandchildren.

1975

EDWARD MACDONALD passed away on October 16, 2016, at the age of 69. A beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and pastor, Ed touched the hearts and lives of many with his compassion and generosity. After finishing his Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies at Southeastern, he pastored churches throughout Canada and Florida and dedicated his life to helping others through his faith. Countless people benefitted from his wisdom and guidance, and those who share the faith he held so dearly are confident in the knowledge that they will be seeing him again when they too move on from this world to be with the Lord.



SEND US YOUR CLASS NOTES
All submissions due by **May 1, 2017**, for the next issue.

- Email: alumni@seu.edu
- Submit online at SEU.edu/alumni
- Mail to:
Alumni Relations
Southeastern University
1000 Longfellow Blvd.
Lakeland, FL 33801



DR. LYLE BOWLIN

After serving Southeastern University for fifteen years, I am continually amazed at how God’s hand touches everything we do for our students. When I first arrived on campus, I had faculty ask me how I could be in business and still be a Christian! While taken aback, I knew that the Lord had led me here to serve the next generation of Christian business professionals that could and would be world-changers.


The number of undergraduate and graduate programs has grown every year as Southeastern University sends out disciples to touch lives in more and more areas in the kingdom. Since its inception, our college has added majors in accounting, finance, management, marketing, international business, legal studies, and organizational leadership. We have also added a master of business administration degree with tracks in executive leadership, ministerial leadership, sports management, and a global experience option.

In the Jannetides College of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership we have not tried to mimic other business schools but rather create one that follows Christian principles and serves the needs of our employers. We often rightfully think of our 815 currently enrolled students as our ‘customers.’ In one sense that is true, but our business students are also our ‘product,’ and our employers are the ultimate ‘customers.’ If we do not adequately prepare our students for their first position, then we have let them and their employer down.

We also take very seriously the importance of ensuring our students understand Christian principles of

service and ethics. What our students observe in our behavior was brought home when I took a senior finance major to a dinner in Tampa for a business meeting. I wanted him to have a chance to network with professionals in his major. On the way back to Lakeland, I asked him what he had learned during the evening. He told me it was how I avoided drinking alcohol during the networking time without me seeming out of place as a non-drinker. He was concerned that he might stand out by following his beliefs and was now much more comfortable seeing how it was done.

As a college we embrace new learning technologies and innovations. We meet regularly with former students and corporations that have hired our students to maintain those important connections. We added two business communications classes to our required business core several years before most universities realized this was lacking in the curriculum. We have a capstone business ethics course that incorporates a Christian worldview. We added required analytics classes several years ahead of the competition based on feedback we received from our employers.

It is a privilege to serve with a team at Southeastern University that not only has a meaningful mission statement: “Equipping students to discover and develop their divine design to serve Christ and the world through Spirit-empowered life, learning and leadership,” but that helps all of the faculty and staff put these words into action in a meaningful way. In this era of life-long learning, we must also remember that we are called to be life-long servants. 



Homecoming 2017

October 20 & 21

Wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt for this year's
Homecoming Luau — roasted pig and all!

We will have competitions, great food, and most of all
the opportunity to see former classmates and professors.



Registration will open June 1! Be one of the first 100 individuals to register by August 30th to receive a special gift!
Watch for more details at SEU.edu/alumni